SUNDAY
January 18, 2026

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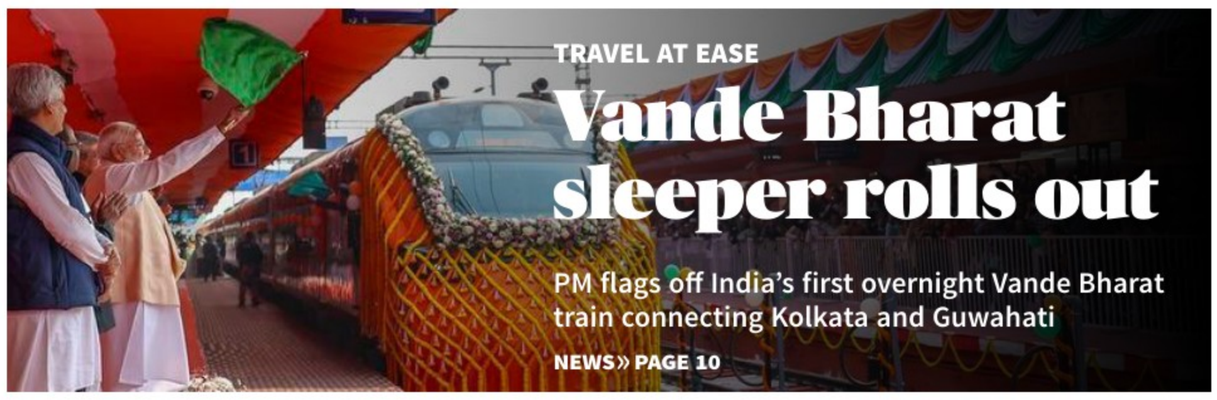
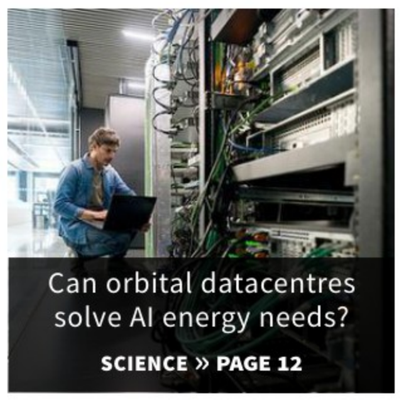


TRAVEL AT EASE

Vande Bharat sleeper rolls out

PM flags off India's first overnight Vande Bharat train connecting Kolkata and Guwahati

NEWS» PAGE 10



Can orbital datacentres solve AI energy needs?

SCIENCE » PAGE 12

What happened to ISRO's PSLV-C62?

FAQ » PAGE 13

All set for India-NZ ODI series decider

SPORT » PAGE 19

NEARBY

Conditional nod to host matches at Chinnaswamy

BENGALURU
The government has granted temporary, conditional permission for hosting cricket matches at the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium, including IPL and international fixtures. » PAGE 3

Police being booked in cases 'shameful': CM

BENGALURU
Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Saturday termed as "shameful" police personnel in Karnataka themselves being involved in 88 criminal cases in the past year. » PAGE 7

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MAGAZINE » 8 PAGES

Iran's leader brands Trump a 'criminal' for backing protests

The protests left 'several thousands' dead in the Islamic Republic, says its Supreme Leader; he says the U.S. President encouraged seditious people

Associated Press
DUBAI

Strong words: Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei speaks during a meeting in Tehran on Saturday. REUTERS

Accusing the U.S. of seeking domination over Iran's resources, Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei on Saturday branded U.S. President Donald Trump a "criminal" for supporting protesters in the Islamic Republic.

In a speech broadcast by state television, Mr. Khamenei said the protests had left "several thousand" people dead – the first indication from an Iranian leader of the extent of the casualties from the wave of protests that began on December 28 and led to a bloody crackdown. "In this revolt, the U.S. President made remarks in person, encouraged seditious people to go ahead and said: 'We do support you, we do support you militarily,'" said Mr. Khamenei.

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'DOMESTIC TERROR'
» PAGE 14

Many Indians take commercial flights out of Iran

NEW DELHI
Several Indians, including students, have returned from Iran commercial flights amid widespread protests in the Islamic nation. » PAGE 9

The Hindu Lit for Life 2026 begins with call for freedom of expression

Authoritarians want to 'shut us up', says British philosopher Grayling while underlining the acute necessity of conversations; former CJI Chandrachud points at 'responsibility to reason with care'

Udhav Naig
CHENNAI

Former CJI D.Y. Chandrachud and philosopher A.C. Grayling inaugurate *The Hindu* Lit for Life in Chennai in the presence of Nirmala Lakshman, Chairperson of The Hindu Group; N. Ravi, Director, Kasturi & Sons Ltd.; N. Ram and N. Murali, Directors of The Hindu Group; Suresh Nambath, Editor, *The Hindu*; L. V. Navaneeth, CEO of The Hindu Group, and Suresh Balakrishna, CRO. R. RAGU

The latest edition of one of the most widely attended literature festivals in India, *The Hindu* Lit For Life 2026, began in Chennai on Saturday.

Speaking at the inauguration of the festival, Nirmala Lakshman, Chairperson, The Hindu Group, and founder of Lit for Life, highlighted the importance of free speech.

"Across the globe, as well as here, we are witnessing threats to free speech and democratic spaces are shrinking. Writing sometimes becomes an act of courage, and festivals like these should celebrate and stand by the voices that dissent, voices that are often powerless, and become spaces where freedom and humanity is celebrated," she said.

British philosopher A.C. Grayling, chief guest, said that authoritarian sentiment and regimes have risen to greater prominence in our world and that "conversation is more acutely necessary than ever".

"What authoritarians want to do is to shut us up. They do not want us talking to one another, exchanging ideas, challenging one another, making one another think," he said.

Former Chief Justice of India, D.Y. Chandrachud, guest of honour at the inauguration, said that listening carefully, reading closely, and resisting haste lies at the heart of both literature and justice.

"A jurist is trained to recognise that every case contains multiple truths, competing narratives and silences that must be heard. Literature sharpens this sensibility. It reminds us that behind every argument lies the human story, and behind every conclusion lies a responsibility to reason with care," the former Chief Justice said.

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FULL COVERAGE
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- MA Economics
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- MA English
- MA Psychology
- Master in Public Policy
- M.Com
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KIIT (Deemed to be University) has only one permanent campus in Bhubaneswar, Odisha. It has no other campus / off campus anywhere else in the country and globe.

Sheltering devotees: Tents set up for pilgrims visiting the ongoing Magh Mela 2026 in Prayagraj. SHASHI SHEKHAR KASHYAP

Chanelling the faithful: Devotees atop a pontoon bridge at the mela on their way to take the holy dip ahead of the Mauni Amavasya festival. PTI

On duty: Members of Uttar Pradesh's anti-terror squad keep an eye on the ongoing festivities at the Sangam. SHASHI SHEKHAR KASHYAP

Sacred spot: Devotees take a dip at the Triveni Sangam. SHASHI SHEKHAR KASHYAP

Prayerful in Prayagraj

Ceremonies for the Magh Mela, which began on January 3, have been drawing crores of devotees to the Triveni Sangam for a holy dip; a footfall of 15-20 crore is expected by the culmination of the festival on Mahasivaratri; pilgrims offer prayers amid tight security arrangements and bustling crowds

Shashi Shekhar Kashyap
shashi.shekhar@thehindu.co.in

Magh Mela is back in Prayagraj, drawing crores of devotees to the Triveni Sangam – the confluence of the Ganga, the Yamuna, and the mythical Saraswati. At the annual 45-day pilgrimage held during the lunar month of Magha, pilgrims take a faithful dip in the cold waters of the Sangam. They believe that this act of devotion offers a chance at salvation and helps break the cycle of life and death.

The Mela, which began on Paush Purnima (January 3), will continue until February 15. During this period, major festivals such as Makar Sankranti, Mauni Amavasya, Basant Panchami, and Maghi Purnima are observed, culminating with Mahasivaratri. Each auspicious day attracts massive crowds to the Sangam for the sacred bath.

Temporary tent colonies have been set up along the banks to accommodate pilgrims. Despite temperatures often dropping to single digits at night, devotees continue to take ritualistic dips in the waters.

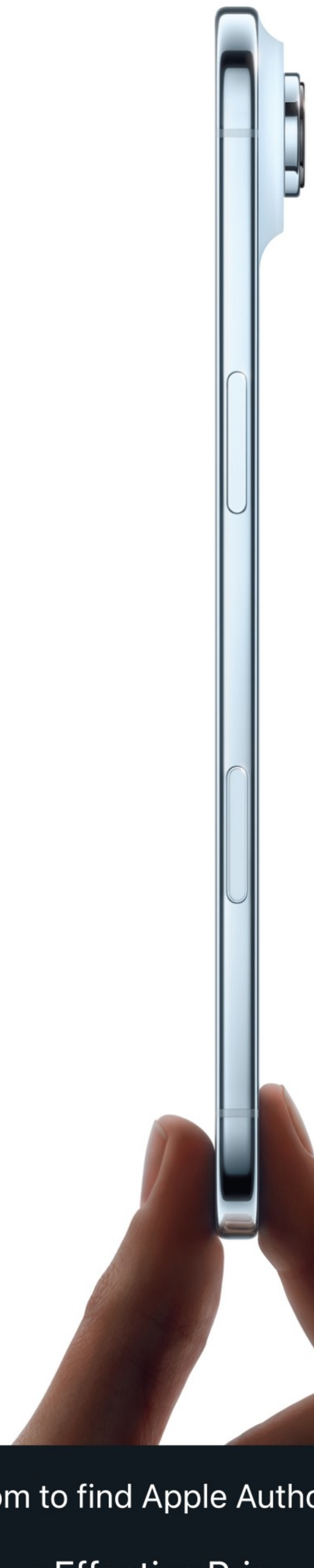
The Mela is also a bustling hub of activity and livelihood. Stalls selling food, religious offerings, and puja ingredients line the banks, catering to the endless stream of devotees.

Tight security arrangements are in place to ensure law and order. An integrated command centre monitors CCTV footage from across the Sangam, while personnel from the Uttar Pradesh Anti-Terror Squad (ATS) patrol the area. Lifeguards on boats maintain safety in the waters.

Authorities expect a massive turnout this year, projecting 15-20 crore visitors by the end of the festival season.

Seeking salvation: Women offering prayers at the Magh Mela. SHASHI SHEKHAR KASHYAP

iPhone Air



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BRIDEGROOMS WANTED

INDEX OF MATRIMONIAL

BRIDEGROOMS WANTED
BRIDES WANTED
BRIDES & GROOMS WANTED
Classification Common for Brides, Bridegrooms, Brides & Grooms
ASSAMESE
AWADHI
BENGALI
BHOJPURI
BIHARI
CHHATTISGARHI
ENGLISH
GUJARATI
HARYANI
HINDI
KANNADA
KASHMIRI
KONKANI
MALAYALAM
MANIPURI
MARATHI
MARWARI
NEPALI
ORIYA
PARSI
PUNJABI
SAURASHTRA
SINDHI
TAMIL
TELUGU
TULU
URDU
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BUSINESS
DEFENCE
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IAS/ ALLIED SERVICES
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MBA/ CA/ ICWA
NRI
COSMOPOLITAN
DIVORCEE
PHYSICALLY CHALLENGED
MARRIAGE BUREAUS
WEDDING ARRANGEMENTS

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SEEKS BRIDE groom, aged 41-46, ht above 173 cms(PG Drs, High profile businessman or Professionally well settled) for Kerala fair & beautiful lady Dr 41yrs, Ezhava, Superspecialised, divorced having one daughter living together. Suitable alliances are solcited from Hindu family, caste no bar. Contact: 8075341214

MBBS MD Dr Marathi Brahmin 37/ 165cm divorced issueless girl from Indore looking for educated upper cast issueless groom. Contact 9981809490

HINDU, CHENNAI Based Bride, CNB, 25 years MBBS, Pursuing (MS) ENT, Seeks Doctor Groom . Ct: 9677199925

GROOM WANTED
Mudaliyar / MBBS, MRCS 29 yrs old Girl currently working in UK.
Seeking suitable DOCTOR BOY, either in UK or willing to move to UK.
Girl's parents are doctors.
contact:
94891-68862

Fair, Cultured, Good Looking, Slim, Doctor Girl 36/165 MD, Cardiac Anesthesiologist, Chennai based doctor family Father Keralite Nair Mother from Tamilnadu. Looking for Doctor groom or Engineer from respectable family.
98400 50381 / 98409 85383

Bride doing MSOG 3rd year, seeks Bride Groom PG MD or MS OR MCH. Contact: 9443331986.

KANNADA

HINDU VOKKALIGA Gowda 31, BE from Coimbatore seeks Suitable Groom. Contact: 97917 68175.

MALAYALAM

NAIR GIRL,92BORN,MBBS,ATHAM,CHENNAI settled,kindly watsapp profile 9042526302

ALLIANCE FROM Malayalee unmarried allopathy Doctor groom for unmarried Hindu spinster69 looks young 9495621351

CHENNAI SETTLED Malayalee Catholic parents seek suitable alliance for their daughter B.Tech., MS., 28/ 158cms working in Europe. Contact: 9444072065

EZHAVA GIRL 31, MS, Gynec (Govt. College) 28.10.1994, fair, upper middle class, proposals from Doctors / Professionals. Ph: 8281425422.

EZHUTHACHAN GIRL from Ottapalam 30, Ph.D Molecular Biology from prestigious US university, studied & worked in US, now moved to India seeks well educated, professionally established groom (30–35) settled in India & supportive of her career. Girls Parents Respectable, well educated, progressive ,worked abroad as NRIs, now settled in Palakkad, Kerala. Send biodata & photograph via WhatsApp to 7907133197/ 9741600790.

CHENNAI NAIR Boy 40 Avittam Makaram Educated Officer Divorcee. No Demands Malayalee Girls, Divorcee, Widow No Kids 7338974907 Brokers Excuse

KERALA NAIR girl,30 M.Arch , Australian PR. Seeks professional Nair boy settled in Australia (PR holder), under 35. Contact with details 7598566895

HINDU SAMBAVA girl M.Tech - Civil, 32/155 Ayilyam. Caste no bar. PH: 8921115851

NRI

HINDU Nadar Groom (USA) Wanted for Bride: Hindu Nadar 27Yrs B.Tech, MS(US),Working in US, Elite Business Family. Ph: 96599-91119/98423-44133

GROOM WANTED - Nair girl, 51, M.Sc, never married, US Citizen, well employed Chicago. US residents only, Caste No Bar. Contact : 9895824803

TAMIL

CHRISTIAN CSI 42, Divorce seeks working professional, God fearing Christian–educated family. 8939896578

TAMIL

CHRISTIAN, 36, MBA, rich & affluent. 8137003550

CHRISTIAN, 24, BSc, rich & affluent. 8138900470

CHRISTIAN DOCTOR, 39 /162cm, working with UN, well–settled family. Well–educated NRI groom preferred. Contact: 9650638095/ 9444852650

CHRISTIAN, Coimbatore - 30 Yrs/ 163cm, M.S., Business, Well settled - Rich and Affluent, Wanted Christian Groom. CT: 9488184227

CHRISTIAN, 26, born-again, rich affluent, ACCA, NRI, 30 crores. PH: 8138900312

SC CHRISTIAN 25/B.E.(CSE) Sr. Software Engr. (MNC) 75,000p.m. Seeks Bridegroom Ph:9444993417 Wh:7397674481

YADHAVA/1990 BORN/ Govt Job / PSU–Health Care / 8.00 LPA/Veg/Caste no bar in BC or OBC. CT:9597459651 or 9443985816.

HINDU, 28, widow, B.L, caste no bar, 7356483111

HINDU, 29, caste no bar, ME, 40 lakhs. 8138900537

HINDU SOURASHTRA Girl of Anusham, Viruchigam, Cleared MRCS Currently Surgical Registrar @ NHS, UK of 29/ 163cm /64 kg, Fair & Slim Needs Groom Working/Settled in UK. 9486869995

AFFLUENT HINDU business family from Bangalore seeks suitable match for their daughter (1989 born), good-looking, working in Paris with a French bank. Seeking well-educated, handsome South Indian groom, well-mannered with good values. WhatsApp: 98454 89161/ Email: vyjayanthimala1960@gmail.com

MUDALIAR 24/ V.Fair, BE, MS, Father Business, Chennai, Elite Family, seeks groom Business/Eng–8925019776

MUDALIAR (CNB) 26/ V.Fair, B.E, MS, MNC, Sr.Analyst, Chennai, Decent pay, well settled family, seeks groom India / Abroad – 9962530015

SAMBAVAR, 29/165, M.Arch (Landscape), wheatish, Consultant Architect, affluent, Class 1 Contractor in PWD, seeks suitable teetotaler bridegroom from good family background, Contact: 99948 93631, 94443 27412

SC (AD), 27yrs, M.Tech, Well Educated Family background in Chennai, Seeks Suitable Groom Ct: 6385293227

GROOM WANTED Hindu Nadar, 26yrs, BDS, Elite business family in Chennai. Contact: 9380791999, 9841329471

GROOM WANTED Rich Naidu, 35yrs, MBBS, MS, Elite Industrial background in Chennai Caste No Bar. 6385293227

MUDALIAR 25, BE, MBA 160cm Good Looking, Well Settled Family Seeks Groom CNB Ct. 8778514465 / 7200866346

HINDU,SC(AD), M Tech, 24, Parent (Doctor–Engineer) seeks Doctor/Engineer/employed– Govt/Abroad–Groom with good family value, Ct:9445530460

HINDU SCA 30, B.Sc (CS), second Marriage have a child boy 5years need a clean habits Groom.CT: 9994284675

HINDU, 25, Divorced, Chettiyar, MBA, 20 lakhs. 8137003550

HINDU, 28, Tamil speaking Naidu, Bsc, 30 lakhs. 8138900412

HINDU, 34, NRI, BE, caste no bar, 10 crores. 8137001255

HINDU, 32, VIP, NRI, caste no bar, 30 crores. 7356483111

MUDALIAR GOOD Looking Well–to–do Graduate girl 29 Seeking Good alliance. No Doctor/ Foreign Settled. Ct: 044– 2433 8939

VANIYAKULA KSHATRIYA / Ayilam/ 26 / 5' / B.Arch/ MS Ireland / Fair / Educated Bride's Parents seek well qualified US/ Europe settled groom with a good family background. Hindu same caste, Mudaliyar,Pillai,Yadava, Mukkulathoor,Chettiar and other equivalent Preferably. Whatsapp: 99403 72423/ +9194447 20315

ELITE MUDALIYAR, 26yrs, MBBS, MS, Very big Industrial background, Seeks Suitable Groom. Contact: 6385293227

MUDALIAR 40 / 163cm BE MBA Phd Madurai seeks well Qualified, Employed Groom. Geetham 9884858014

HINDU NADAR, B.Tech M.S, 26 years, 167 cms, and employed in U.S. Fair and beautiful. We seek U.S employed groom (1995 to 1999 born) for our daughter and we are from Chennai. Kindly contact 8105586766 or cgrajkumar@rediffmail.com.

TAMIL

WELL EDUCATED, 37, Divorcee Seeks Compatible Groom. Caste No Bar. Call / WA 9489695984.

AGAMUDI MUDALIAR 34/165 Mirugasim Raghu Lagnam, PG (HR, MNC, Hyderabad) Seeks MS, M.Tech Groom 9176780777

DOCTOR MD HINDU NADAR 30 Y bride seeks PQ groom send details to 9976610580

HINDU NADAR, Chennai, 31, Govt Officer, Good Salary, Seeking PG, Well Settled, Educated Family in and around Chennai, 9445055308

WELL SETTLED Doctor, 40 yrs, Divorcee without child, Hindu, BC seeks compatible professional Groom. CNB. Contact:8056868090

HINDU, 29, Pillai, ME, Private, 50 lakhs.PH: 8138900557

HINDU, 31, Mudaliyar, MBA, royal family. PH: 8138900412

HINDU, 30, UK, caste no bar, MSc, 50 crores. PH: 8137003550

MUDALIAR, UTHIRAM, 33/160 fair beautiful PG HR employed in Hyderabad 50L/Pa seeks tall handsome well settled groom. Caste no bar. 8667645622

BRIDES WANTED

COSMOPOLITAN

ARYA VYSHYA,AGE–44,HT–177CM, work Mumbai–MNC, Good Salary, prop. chennai, 9841551772

HANDSOME, SUCCESSFUL, 36, 188cm, well–spoken, from cultured S. Indian family. Seeking well–educated, compatible bride. Call/WA 9345 634 365.

29, HINDU, IITM. HSEE Post graduate, Entrepreneur, well settled, earning min 36 Lac P.A., Seeks well educated, Broad minded/outlook, independent, career–oriented bride (doctor/dentist/CA/architect/ self–employed professional) to settle in Coimbatore. Caste no bar. CT: 8056145620

CHENNAI BUSINESSMAN 54Yr Seeks Companion Educated Unmarried,Divorce, Widow(No Kids) Age 30–40Yr 9444380861

DIVORCEE

SINCERE WIDOWER 45, 179cm, well–read (IIT alum), successful professional. Seeks compatible bride. Religion/caste no bar. Call/WA 93456 34365

HINDI

AGARWAL BOY, 29yrs, Bank Job, 36 LPA package, underwent kidney transplant, health now perfectly ok, seek suitable bride. CT: 6230198418

MALAYALAM

VISWAKARMA (C) Boy, 34/170, Pooram, MTech. PhD, IIT Madras, seeks alliance from qualified girls from educated families. Caste no bar. 9495363050, 8089795318

TAMIL

CHRISTIAN, 31, divorced, MD, Doctor, 50 lakhs, caste/religion no bar. 8137003549

CHRISTIAN, 27, UK, MBA, 30 crores, fair. 8138900652

CHRISTIAN, 30, born again, MNC, Australia. 8138900316

CHRISTIAN, 28, Born again, UK, 10 crores, MS. 8138900316

CHRISTIAN, 28, MS, UK, Fair. 8138901189

TAMIL

HINDU NAIDU, 2nd Marriage, Age: 45, BBA, IT, 8 Lacs P.A, seeks suitable Bride, Divorcee or Widow without Children. Caste No Bar. 9840976778

HINDU MUDALAIYAR, Hastham, 27/ 173 MD Pulmonologist working in reputed hospital Chennai, affluent doctor family. Ct: 9962621469/ 9840021469

HINDU, 28, caste no bar, fair & handsome, UK, VVIP. 8138900412

SEEKING BRIDE for our son 35y/ 173cm, MTech(IIT), MS(US), working in US. Hindu Tamil, Girl in India only. Parents Thevar and Iyengar, Caste No Bar. 9600865587, sivampankajam@gmail.com

MUDALIAR 32/168 Kettai BE Mech, MBA, Coimbatore CT: 95977-72439, 84892-72439.

DKV 2nd Marriage 53 / 3.5 LPM Sr. GM B'lore Seeks Issueless Girl CNB 9442607143.

BRIDE WANTED: For 33–yr–old groom, Piramalai Kallar, employed at Nokia, Bangalore, Income Rs.1.20 Lakhs pm., well–settled family, alliance from any Mukkulathor is welcome. Earlier marriage legally declared null & void. Contact with details: +91 98845 10516.

TAMIL YADAVA Boy, MBA, 37, Ayilyam,,TCS, Chennai seeks yadava bride within TN., Sozhia Vellalar, Mudaliyar bride considerable., Contact through Tamil. 9965673354, 7373386474.

AGE 56, Good body structure, Well settled Looking for a very beautiful & comfortable bride over 50 Years old. Email : dharanr2006@gmail.com

TAMIL HINDU SC AD 30/169 BE., MBA (IIMT) well placed boy, seeks bride from well educated/ settled family. Ct: 9448664461

Hindu Nadar 40 yr/180 cm PSU Bank Manager, CBE Divorcee seeks life partner any BC Caste Ct: 9942280831

RICH MUDALIYAR, 29yrs, BE, MBA, Elite business family, Seeks Suitable Bride Contact: 9176491777

HINDU 64 yrs well Settled separated from Family looking for a widow 50 yrs for remarriage. WA 8220822951.

LOOKING FOR a Bride for our Son, 39/180cm, M.Tech,MS Engineer Sweden.Hindu Mudaliar, Uthiradam. 9884187197

HINDU NADAR, 43yrs/180cm, Analyst Programmer in Australia, Divorcee (no Issues) seeks good looking well qualified professional. CNB. Ct: 9902047595

VANNIYAKULAKSHATRIAR GROOM 43yrs, Divorced shortlived no issue. B.E, M.B.A(UK). Working in IT Company Chennai. 16.2 laks/PA Contact: 9944928521, 9487935521.

HINDU, 39, any caste, 50 lakhs, widow. 8137003551

HINDU, 30, Nadar, 50 lakhs, MBA. 8138901337

BRIDE WANTED Hindu Nadar 27yrs BE, MS working in software 2lac/p/m Elite family Ct:9380791999/ 9841329471

THULUVA VELLALA MUDALIYAR, 29 years BE. MBA, Asst. Manager, Federal Bank, Raichur, Karnataka, Subsects No Bar. Seeks Employed (or) Unemployed bride CT: 98450 55046

TAMIL

HINDU NADAR Age 37, Video Editior Pvt Channel Chennai,Salary 40k Rental income 26k Own Hosue in Chennai,Seeks Bride. 9894220700 / 8190900067

HINDU, 32/180, Ph.D, Well Settled, Engineer, Upper Middle class. Working in Canada. Seeks good looking bride. Caste no bar. Ct: 9444087877

WE ARE looking for a suitable bride girl from cultured family in the age group 30+ , a graduate , preferably employed for a 37 year old Iyer graduate engineer working as project Lead at Randstad (a highly reputed project management company) based in Chennai (income Rs 9.00 lakhs per annum) Contact number+91 9962300905.

SC AD 31/180 cm BE (CSC) Senior IT officer Chennai, Sal: 4-7 lakhs per annum, Rasi: Mesham, Star: Barani (Rahu-Kethu) upper middle class seeks bride. Ph: 94433 53544

ALLIANCE INVITED for our son, aged 29 years, residing in Coimbatore, height 5'2", BE graduate, runs his own industry manufacturing metal parts, Hindu Viswakarma. The bride should hail from a decent, educated family. Caste no bar. Contact number: 7200771144

BRIDE WANTED Hindu Nadar 29yrs, B.Tech, MS (US), working in US, Business Family Ct:9380791999/ 9841329471

VAANIYARCHETTY –39 visagam /176/ MS (Sweden) working Sweden 70 L.PA, (Swedish Citizen & OCI). Seeks BE/ MS/ MBA/ MCA/ CA/ Ph.D/ Prof. Bride CNB. Cont:9840429799

MUDALIAR 32/175 Veg Dip Siddha, Trustee Siddhar Trust Perambalur seeks Spiritual Bride Geetham 9884858014

BC EMPLOYED/SETTLED Girl for 35 year BE MBA Govt 1 Lac PM Chennai 9444925350/9884172821

HINDU Ph.D (35/165 cm), Working as Researcher in Coimbatore. Seeks Bride Caste no bar. Interested parties may call to 9080671239.

HINDU, 32, Chettiyar, Raku/Ketu, ME, 20 crores. PH: 8137003550

HINDU, 34, Pillai, Nurse, NRI,50 lakhs. PH: 7356483111

MUDALIAR 30/185 Fair,Handsome, MS, D– Engineer, Microsoft USA, 210000. USD.PA, CNB. 9043991629, 9043987029

MUDALIAR/PILLAI Divorcee (No Kids) BE MBA 32/163 Group 1 Officer working in Coimbatore, Preferably from same community seeking Graduate Girl Divorcee / First Marriage. CT: 94868-53954.

PARKAVA KULAM Moopanar 37/162 MD(S) Doctor, First Marriage Seeks Reputed Family Ct : 9791517511.

BRAHMIN IYER VADULAM Uthiram Nov 1977 BSc (MCA) MNC, IT, 28Lacs PA. Seeking unmarried Brahmin Girl Ct 9841071359

VADAKALAI Iyengar, Bharathwajam, Punar Poosam 46/168cm MSIT-IT, Vice President MNC 32 Lakhs PA never married seeking unmarried Girl in any sort of Vegetarian back ground. Mob: 7395989198.

Brahmin 47 seeks Girl 35 to 45, Private, own House, Fair, Clean habit any caste, No mother, Only Son. Ct: 97914 53205, 99629 17322, 80723 60203.

TAMIL

BRIDE WANTED
Vadakalai Iyengar - Bharadwaja - Swathi - Thula; Sep' 1995 – Normal Complexion - 172 cm; PG in AI&ML from BITS & BE (ECE) – Working as Lead Data Analyst in MNC, Bangalore; Seeking a Bride who is working in Bangalore or willing to relocate.
+91-94814-06236
+91-97316-33361
krishrang1962@gmail.com

Parents looking for Mudhaliar/ allied forward caste Hindu, educated cultured, Higher middle/ higher class bride for our only son born 3/4/1995. Fair good looking, 165cm height, M.Tech, PhD Genetics, Research scientist in UK. Star Bharani, Mesham rasi, Elite Mudhaliar community. Parents living in Chennai. Interested send horoscope to Email: apsaram1953@gmail.com Whatsapp: 89390 61404.

Unmarried Tamil Yadav, 44 years, BA, age-defying. Seeks unmarried/ issueless divorcee, CNB 8939042966.

Viswakarma Boy, 26 Yrs/169 cm, BTec, MBA, 24 LPA, Contact: 9047755228

HINDU NADAR Groom 36/5'11"/lean, Superspecialist Doctor, Chennai, well settled, divorced, no child. Seeks preferably unmarried, well educated bride under 34yrs. Profession No Bar. Contact: 9500127162.

✔Seeking Bride from affluent SOZHIA VELLALAR (PILLAI) family for 27 yrs, 190 cm, handsome MBA Groom, settled in CANADA. Willing to relocate to India if required. Groom in India till Mar 2026. Email: s26091965@hotmail.com Whats-App: +965 97121178

TELUGU

NAIDU, CNB, 31yrs, MBBS, MS, Very Elite business family in Chennai, Seeks Suitable Bride Ct: 6385293227

NAIDU, 29YRS, Divorce, M.Tech, Running Own Business family in Chennai, Seeks Suitable Bride Ct:6385293227

HINDU, TELUGU, 39yrs MBA Chennai, 3 Lac P.M. NBFC Bangalore. Caste No Bar. Well educated & Fair Girl. Whatsapp. 91235 09810

NAIDU 28/187 Handsome, B.Tech, MS, Engineer, Oracle USA,175000.USD. PA, CNB, CNB. 9043991629, 9043987029

Kamma/ Converted Christian 49y/170 Rich/ Widower/ Software Architect in USA (Citizen), CNB. Wup:7032123063

URDU

URDU MUSLIM Groom 27/150 BE SWE Reputed Company, Banglore. Seeks Working Bride. 8540070259.

DOCTOR PARENTS, Sunni Urdu, seek Medico Bride for their Doctor son pursuing MD Post Graduation, Fair 26/178cm. absash25@gmail.com

MARRIAGE BUREAU

US UK Canada All Caste Religion 1st Marriage Remarriage. Ct:8248757840

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MUDALIYAR, 29, 170 cms, M.Tech, Businessman. Lives in Pondicherry. Father is a Businessman. Family is financially well off. Looking for a like minded match from Business family in similar caste. Contact: 6366448343

D E V A R / T H E V A R / MUKKULATHOR, 26, 168 cms, ME, Working Professional. Lives in US. Father is a Businessman. Family is financially well off. Looking for an amiable match from similar caste. Contact: 6366448343

VANIYA CHETTIAR, 26, 180 cms, MBA, Businessman. Lives in Chennai. Father is a Businessman. Family is financially well off. Looking for a like minded match from similar community in Chennai. Contact: 6366448344

ELITE GROOMS WANTED

PILLAI, 25, 168 cms, B.Tech, Entrepreneur. Lives in Chennai. Father is a Businessman. Family is financially well off. Looking for a like minded and well educated Doctor or Business match in similar caste. Contact: 6366448343

MUDALIYAR, 27, 163 cms, MBBS, Pursuing PG. Lives in Chennai. Parents are Doctors. Family is financially well off. Looking for a like minded MBBS, MS/MD match from a similar community in Chennai. Contact: 6366448344

24 MANAI TELUGU CHETTIAR, 25, 163 cms, MD/MS, Doctor. Lives in Tirchy. Father is a Businessman. Family is financially well off. Looking for a like minded and well educated Doctor or Business match from similar caste. Contact: 6366448343

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TAMIL

MUDALIAR 25/164 Fair, Beautiful, MS, D–Scientist, Netflix USA,130000.USD.PA, CNB. 9043991629, 9043987029

Vaaniya Chettiar Girl, 24 yrs, B.E, Seeks groom, Businessman or high-profile job. Contact: 9751013107

PILLAI GIRL 29 YRS / 160 / N. VEG / B. TECH - MEM - IVY LEAGUE USA, LIVES IN NEW YORK / H1B, WORKING WITH TOP 5
Seek well educated well placed boy in USA. Caste no bar.
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BRIDE GROOM WANTED
Hindu Nadar MBBS, MD, 29 Years, Fair and Good looking from Kanyakumari District Reputed well to do family Looking for well qualified professionals, Doctors, Class 1 officers same Cast Contact with Horoscope, Photograph and profile
Contact : 9498017788

Mudaliar, 29, Fair complexion 154cm, Family oriented Girl from Upper Middle class, Chennai, seeks groom from Govt employed, Software professionals or well settled from Reputed family. Contact: 94449 35026/ 94445 47499.

Sozhia VELLALAR (Pillai) 25/155, Thiruvonam, Environmentalist, fair, Canadian citizen, Seeks same caste Groom from USA/Canada/Middle East. Contact: s26091965@hotmail.com WhatsApp: +965 97121178

DIVORCEE

GOUNDER AGE 50/163cm,B.Com Fair Govt Sal:80K.Pm Need Any Govt, well Settled Bride No Age Limit 9842941182

IYER DIVORCEE Boy 51yrs S/W Professional with high salary seeks graduate girl from good family without issues caste no bar simple marriage no demands Ct: 9841672014.

DOCTOR

MUSLIM BOY MBBS 174/29, J.R., Govt. Medical College, Father Rtd. Dist. Officer, Mother Rtd. Deputy Director (Higher Secondary Edn.), reputed family Kollam, Kerala. 9995838247

33 Doctor MD mutual divorcee intercaste Hindu - Christian Caste No Bar. Seeks Doctor UG / PG or other professional degree willing to live in Trichy city. No expectation. Contact : 98430 75979.

HINDU/ THEVAR , Star– Revathi, Lagnam– Meenam / MBBS from Govt. Medical College, 32,Yrs/ 180 CMS, working with Govt. Railway Hospital at Mumbai, from Metropolitan, Affluent family. Seeks MBBS Bride, Never Married, from THEVAR/ MARAVAR /AGAMUDAIYAR from Respectable, Elite Family.Contact: 9869164779/ 9941824629

NRI

TAMIL HINDU 55 yrs, 173cm BSc, MBA, IT Proff, Australia, Divorce. Seeks Bride, WhatsApp: +61422909407

TAMIL

MUSLIM, COIMBATORE, 34/178cms, Athletic, BE MBA, working BLR, 35+ LPA, seeks Family Oriented upper middle class Tamil/Urdu/Malayalam speaking MBA/Dr/CA/Arch, Working beautiful bride < 31. WA: 9789490721.

CHRISTIAN CSI Tamil 43yrs/174Cm, BE. MBA, Divorcee No Issues MNC Abroad. seeks suitable Bride. 9094677765

PROTESTANT CHRISTIAN Male 53 Unmarried Teacher. Seeks Bride. Divorcees,Widowers without issues are also welcome. Apply: vinziisaac@gmail.com

CHRISTIAN NADAR, Doctor, Divorcee 37yrs/178cm, MBBS, Dip in Cardiology better earning lives in Nagercoil seeks qualified/ Divorced Bride. 9003983230

TAMIL MUSLIM 28 yr old ME graduate working in Chennai seeking bride of age 23–27 BE or any Master degree, working or willing to work. Ct 9361134612

CHRISTIAN, 35, MS, Doctor. PH: 8138901189

CHRISTIAN, 29, MBA, 40 lakhs. PH: 8138900316

✔ MARAVAR 42 BE MNC 20L Young Looking Bachelor Lean Physique Clean habits Seeks suitable Vegetarian bride with lean Physique 9841958995

TELUGU

✔ LOOKING FOR Groom, US citizen, Hyderabad Telugu 34/176cm, wheatish, MBA, Data Sci PhD, govt job, divorced, SC, well settled. Seeking well educational, settled boy. Caste no bar. Global Matches. Ct: 92475 04919.

RICH NAIDU, 25 yrs, BE, MBA, Running own Transport in Chennai, Seeks Suitable Groom. Contact: 6385293227

NAIDU Girl 28/160, B.E Civil, working in Software, seeks Groom from Telugu speaking chennai only.Ct: 8925731888

TELUGU

NAIDU 24/162 Fair, Beautiful, BTech CSE, ML Engr, NVIDIA USA, 120000.USD.PA, CNB. 9043991629, 9043987029

URDU

RESPECTABLE MUSLIM family seeks suitable Muslim groom for their daughter, Fair, Slim, attractive, 23 years, 153 cm, B.A., M.S.W., working as HR. Groom 25 – 28 years, Government officer / Bank official / professional, well settled in Chennai. Contact / WhatsApp: 9042310136

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THE HINDU
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Inclusive faith: A kinnar saint at the religious gathering blesses a child on Friday. SHASHI SHEKHAR KASHYAP

High vigil: Police and Railway personnel monitor crowds round the clock at the Integrated Command and Control Centre. ANI

Religious rites: Two Hindu saints, immersed in prayer, perform evening rituals as dusk settles in. SHASHI SHEKHAR KASHYAP

A big draw: An aerial view of the swarm of pilgrims gathered at the Triveni Sangam. PTI

Ceremonial tribute: Priests perform Ganga *aarti* at the Dashashwamedh Ghat ahead of Mauni Amavasya during the Magh Mela. PTI

Chinnaswamy Stadium gets conditional nod to host matches

Govt. has retained the authority to inspect the stadium at any stage and to revise or withdraw the permission if the compliance or safety arrangements are found to be inadequate

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Karnataka government has granted temporary, conditional permission for hosting cricket matches at the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium, including IPL and international fixtures, subject to strict compliance with safety norms and continuous monitoring by an expert committee.

All cricket activities had come to a halt at the stadium after 11 people were killed in a stampede outside the venue during the celebrations for RCB's first IPL trophy last year.

All cricket activities had come to a halt at the stadium after 11 people were killed in a stampede outside it during the celebrations for RCB victorylast year. FILE PHOTO

Expert committee

Acting on the recommendations of the government-appointed expert committee that was set up after the tragedy, authorities have directed that all works and safety measures suggested by the panel must be completed by the Karnataka State Cricket Association (KSCA) within the stipulated timeframe.

The permission has been issued with clear riders, allowing the government and a high-level monitoring committee to oversee progress at the stadium on an ongoing basis.

Safety and security

Officials have stipulated that, in addition to complying with the expert committee's recommendations, KSCA must implement all additional safety and security measures mandated under international standards while hosting matches.

The government has further retained the authority to inspect the stadium at any stage and to revise or withdraw the permission if the compliance or safety arrangements are found to be inadequate or unsatisfactory.

Number of spectators

Significantly, as the proposed works are still in progress, the authorities have stated that it is not possible at this stage to specify the permissible number of spectators.

The final decision on spectator capacity will be taken only after the completion of all works and safety measures, followed by a fresh inspection and report by the expert committee. Approval for crowd capacity will be granted strictly in accordance with the committee's recommendations.

Positive step: KSCA

The KSCA, meanwhile, viewed this development as a 'positive step' towards bringing top-quality cricket back to the stadium. The newly elected managing committee, headed by President and former India fast bowler Venkatesh Prasad, will work round the clock to implement all safety measures, KSCA officials claimed.

The promise to restore the glory of the iconic M. Chinnaswamy Stadium was the key issue in the recent KSCA elections. The stadium has missed out on hosting several high-profile matches – including the 2025 Women's Cricket World Cup final – as a result of the stampede. The city has also not been allotted any matches for the upcoming 2026 ICC Men's T20 World Cup.

In December last year, star cricketer Virat Kohli had played two matches for Delhi in the Vijay Hazare Trophy behind closed doors at the BCCI Centre of Excellence on the outskirts of the city, after the State government denied permission for hosting these matches at the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium.

Key recommendations

- Parking facilities for 2 and 4 wheelers separately in the stadium vicinity
- Separate lanes for spectators to enter without using the footpath
- All entrance and exit doors to be minimum 6 ft. in length
- Medical response in place as per TRIAGE guidelines
- Place for spectators to gather must be marked and evacuation plans drawn
- Antecedence check of all security personnel, workers and vendors
- Real time crowd flow monitoring system

Three students killed in road accident

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Three college students were killed in a road accident after their two-wheeler lost control and collided with a lorry near Agalakote Village on the Channahalli-Bettakote Road on Saturday around 11.20 a.m.

According to the police, Manikantha, 20, was riding the scooter at high speed with two pillion riders, identified as Srinivas, 19, and Tauseef, 19, all residents of Chikkajala. The vehicle jumped the divider, crossed over to the opposite lane, and skidded onto the carriageway. As a result, all three riders were thrown onto the road. A truck travelling from Budigere towards Devanahalli allegedly ran over them, killing them on the spot.

Lorry driver held

Though truck driver fled from the scene, the Devanahalli Traffic Police traced the vehicle and arrested the driver, identified as Ningappa M. Kattimani, a native of Vijayapura.

A case has been registered against Manikantha for rash and negligent riding, and against the lorry driver under Sections 281 and 106(1) of BNS.

Applications invited

BENGALURU UAS-B, is organising the 9th batch of the Urban Horticultural Training Programme on January 30 and 31. For further details, contact 9482230588.

APPOINTMENT

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Age Limit: Up to 50 years as on 1st February 2026.

Key Responsibilities: Overseeing school operations including administration, pastoral care, student discipline, and residential houses; assisting the **Headmaster** in academic planning, curriculum implementation, and faculty supervision. Strong leadership, communication, interpersonal, and decision-making skills are essential.

Tenure & Remuneration: Initial three-year contractual appointment, renewable by mutual consent. Compensation and benefits will be commensurate with qualifications and experience and benchmarked against leading residential public schools. **Last date for receipt of applications:** 8th February 2026. Interested candidates may email their detailed resume to: **dhmsc@thelawrenceschool.org**

Headmaster
The Lawrence School, Lovedale

City to get 1,000-bed super-speciality multi-organ transplant hospital; pact inked

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah said the Azim Premji Foundation has set a target of spending ₹4,000 crore over the next five years to build and operate a new 1,000-bed charitable super-speciality and multi-organ transplant hospital in Bengaluru.

The hospital will come up on 10 acres within the Rajiv Gandhi Institute of Chest Diseases campus in Bengaluru, which the government has agreed to lease to the Foundation for 99 years, he announced on January 17 after the Medical Education Department and the foundation signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for the construction and management of the facility.

Mr. Siddaramaiah said the State was grateful to the foundation and to Azim Premji 'for undertaking this noble initiative', and for deciding to run the facility free of cost. The foundation will invest ₹1,000 crore on building the hospital and more over the years to run the facility, he said.

Over the last 25 years, the foundation has supported teacher training, contributed ₹1.5 crore to the government's egg distribution scheme in schools in 2024, and extended annual scholarships of ₹30,000 each to students from government colleges under the Deepika scheme, the Chief Minister added.

Anurag Behar, CEO, Azim Premji Foundation emphasised the importance of strengthening public systems, saying private initiatives cannot compensate for weak public infrastructure.

"The foundation believes that public systems are central to a good society. Our commitment is to work with the government to strengthen them," he said, pointing out that healthcare begins with ASHA workers, primary health centres, and preventive work in communities.

Mr. Behar praised Karnataka as 'one of the three most proactive States' the foundation works with. He noted that the foundation's 25-year engagement in Karnataka has shown progress most visibly in grassroots work in, among other places, Surpur and Sindagi.

Medical Education Minister Sharan Prakash R. Patil said the proposed hospital will provide transplant services across multiple organs, with 70% of procedures free of cost and the remaining 30% at minimal rates on the lines of the autonomous Sri Jayadeva Institute of Cardiovascular Sciences and Research and the Kidwai Memorial Institute of Oncology.

Dr. Patil added that the project aligns with the government's larger roadmap to strengthen tertiary healthcare. "We have set a target of establishing one medical college, one super-speciality hospital, one trauma centre, and one cancer hospital in every district," he said.

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UNAUDITED (REVIEWED) FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER/NINE MONTHS ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2025
(₹ in Lakh)

Sl. No.	Particulars	Quarter ended		Nine Months Ended		Year Ended
		31.12.2025 Unaudited	31.12.2024 Unaudited	31.12.2025 Unaudited	31.12.2024 Unaudited	31.03.2025 Audited
1	Total Income from Operations (net)	752116	740589	2237576	2133674	2947353
2	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period (before Tax, Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	115512	99618	312638	279741	383355
3	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period before tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	115512	99618	312638	279741	383355
4	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period after tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	73951	63883	196671	179253	244496
5	Total Comprehensive income for the period (comprising Profit/Loss) for the period (after tax) and other comprehensive income (after tax)	Refer Note 2				
6	Paid Up Equity Share Capital	1253956	1195596	1253956	1195596	1253956
7	Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserves)	1541844	1240327	1541844	1240327	1541844
8	Securities Premium Account	504211	362571	504211	362571	504211
9	Net Worth	2407138	1840387	2407138	1840387	2110741
10	Paid up Debt Capital / Outstanding Debt	0.08	0.07	0.08	0.07	0.07
11	Debt Equity Ratio	0.77	1.05	0.77	1.05	0.93
12	Earning Per Share (of ₹ 10/- each) (for continuing and discontinued operations)-					
	1. Basic:	0.59	0.53	1.57	1.50	2.04
	2. Diluted:	0.59	0.53	1.57	1.50	2.04
13	Capital Redemption Reserve	-	-	-	-	-
14	Debenture Redemption Reserve	-	-	-	-	-

Note : 1. The above is an extract of the detailed format of quarterly/nine months ended financial results filed with the Stock Exchanges under regulation 33 and 52 of the Listing Regulations. The full format of the quarterly/ nine months ended financial results is available on the websites of the Stock Exchanges (www.nseindia.com and www.bseindia.com) and Bank's Website (www.uco.bank.in/investors) 2. Information relating to total comprehensive income and other comprehensive income is not furnished as Ind As is not yet made applicable to the bank.

For UCO Bank

Place : Kolkata
Dated : 17th January, 2026

Sd/- Vijaykumar Nivrutti Kamble, Executive Director
Sd/- Rajendra Kumar Saboo, Executive Director
Sd/- Ashwani Kumar, Managing Director & CEO
Sd/- Aravamudan Krishna Kumar, Non- Executive Chairman

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BJP high command may overrule State unit on JD(S) tie-up

The alliance with Janata Dal (Secular) was brokered by the high command with a larger perspective in mind, looking ahead at the Assembly elections, says a strategist

CIVIC POLLS

K.V. Aditya Bharadwaj
BENGALURU

BJP State president B.Y. Vijayendra, JD (S) leader and Union Minister H. D. Kumaraswamy, and Leader of the Opposition in the Assembly R. Ashok. FILE PHOTO

Even as the JD(S) and BJP central leadership seem to have greenlit an alliance for Bengaluru's long-pending civic polls, there is stiff resistance within the State unit of the BJP to the alliance. However, local BJP leaders are likely to be overruled by the BJP central leaders with a larger perspective in mind, multiple sources said.

JD(S) State president and Union Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy is seen as having a hotline to the national party's central leadership, and his statement to his partymen on Friday that they would fight along with BJP is seen as an indication of the saffron party high command clearing the same, sources said.

Sources in the JD(S) said that they were looking at Vokkaliga dominated Assembly constituencies in the outer zones like Yeshwanthpur, R.R. Nagar, Dasarahalli, Bengaluru South, among others, where they have a strong base in seat sharing formula with the BJP.

However, this has not gone down well with local BJP leaders. "Though the BJP's State unit is rife with factionalism, all factions seem to be united in their resentment of Mr. Kumaraswamy's clout with their party's central leadership," a senior BJP leader observed.

While Vokkaliga leadership in the party is insecure with Mr. Kumaraswamy's credentials as a leader of the community, others resent the language JD(S) and its supporters are deploying online, moulding the BJP-JD(S) alliance in the State on the lines of BJP-JDU alliance in Bihar, and openly suggesting Mr. Kumaraswamy will be the Chief Minister next term.

Filmy touch

The recent AI-made parody of Yash starrer *Toxic* trailer, hinting at Mr. Kumaraswamy's return to State politics, has reportedly not gone down well in the BJP. With the leadership question not yet being settled in the BJP in a post-B.S. Yediyurappa phase, Mr. Kumaraswamy has been a cause of concern, sources said.

A senior BJP leader from Bengaluru said that the party was confident of winning at least four of the five corporations in the city on its own and JD(S) offered "precious little". He pointed out that BJP had won the BBMP council in 2010 and had a simple majority in 2015 as well, though Congress and JD(S) held power in the second tenure.

"In both 2010 and 2015 BBMP councils, JD(S) had not won more than 15 seats out of 198. Today, there is not a single JD(S) MLA in the city," the senior leader pointed out.

JD(S) came second in two seats in the recent 2023 Assembly polls - Yeshwanthpur and Dasarahalli - both won by BJP.

Big picture

However, a senior strategist for the party said that the alliance with JD(S) was brokered by the high command with a larger perspective in mind.

"On the one hand BJP has never been able to secure a simple majority in the State, leading to two tenures brought in through Operation Lotus. It resulted in instability and corruption of the cadre-based party. On the other hand, the party has failed to make inroads into the Vokkaliga heartland of Old Mysore region, also one of the reasons why it has failed to get 113 seats in the Assembly. Alliance with JD(S) is seen as a response to both these shortfalls of the party on a larger canvas," the strategist explained, stressing that there will be an alliance with JD(S) even in local body polls, including for the GBA. The strategist argued that BJP and JD(S) going together will help fight the incumbent Congress, already mired in confusion over leadership issues, particularly in the Old Mysore region, from where both Siddaramaiah and D.K. Shivakumar hail.

Larger pool of votes

"A decisive victory for us in this area in local body polls will be a blow to the government ahead of the 2028 assembly polls. So even if JD(S) doesn't bring much to the table in the GBA area, we will likely go with them as they will help us defeat Congress elsewhere," the strategist said, adding BJP and JD(S) put together will pool in nearly 50% of the vote share.

'Play is children's language, honour it'

Author Rohini Nilekani launching her book at the Bengaluru Hubba 2026 in Bengaluru on Saturday. ALLEN EGENUSE J.

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Rohini Nilekani, city-based philanthropist and children's author, unveiled *The Playbook of Play*, that invites adults to rethink what play truly means in early childhood, at Makkala Habba at Freedom Park here on Saturday.

"Play is a child's language. It's how they build a relationship with the world," Ms Nilekani shared. "When we honour that language, children truly thrive, and it is a societal responsibility to enable this for all children across the country."

According to the author, the science is clear, play is not optional, but essential. "Decades of neuroscience and child development research affirm what children instinctively know," Ms. Nilekani said.

The book project was an initiative of EkStep Foundation's Bachpan Manao. "We are having this conversation surrounded by children bringing childhood alive though the well curated experiences and installations at Makkala Hubba," said Deepika Mogilishetty, Chief of Policy and Partnerships, EkStep Foundation, a non-profit organisation co-founded by Nandan Nilekani.

Music concert today

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Sapthak, Bangalore will organise the Pt. Kerekai Kamalakar Bhat Memorial Concert on Sunday, at Seva Sadan, Malleswaram, at 5.30 p.m.

The programme begins with a vocal recital by Kiran Kamalakar Bhat, Kerekai, accompanied by Arun Kamalar Bhat, Kerekai on the tabla and Madhusoodhan Bhat, Vanalli on the harmonium.

One-day event at IISc

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A one-day programme titled *"From Scale to Resilience: Rethinking Efficient AI Systems"* will be held at the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru, on Tuesday.

Organised as a precursor to the India AI Impact Summit, the event is jointly hosted by the Karnataka AI Cell under the Centre for e-Governance, MeitY, and IISc.

The programme will bring together policymakers, researchers, industry leaders, startups, and global experts to discuss practical approaches for building efficient AI solutions for public services.

Key themes include data safety, security, transparency, and cost-effective technological innovation.

Timings
BENGALURU

SUNDAY, JAN. 18
RISE 06:46 SET 18:14
RISE 06:20 SET 17:53

MONDAY, JAN. 19
RISE 06:46 SET 18:14
RISE 07:08 SET 18:47

TUESDAY, JAN. 20
RISE 06:46 SET 18:15
RISE 07:52 SET 19:40

Bengaluru Weather

	max	min
Tumakuru	29	20
Mysuru	29	17
Bengaluru	29	17

Bengaluru Today
30ºC The weather will be dry. Day will be slight warm. Night will be cool and hazy. Dry weather to prevail.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
29ºC Morning will be cool with mist and haze. Day will be slight warm. Night also will be cool. Dry weather to occur.

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THE HINDU
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UTTARAKHAND CIVIL AVIATION DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
(DEPARTMENT OF CIVIL AVIATION) (GOVERNMENT OF UTTARAKHAND)
SAHASTRADHARA HELIDROME, P.O. KULHAN, DEHRADUN- 248001, UTTARAKHAND
EMAIL: UCADADOON@GMAIL.COM; WEBSITE: WWW.UCADA.IN

Ref.: 2546/UCADA/2026 DATE: 17/01/2026

E-TENDER NOTICE

Uttarakhand Civil Aviation Development Authority (UCADA) Dehradun invites proposals from eligible aviation agency(s) to submit their proposals/bids for the following packages.

S. No.	Name of Package	Date of Start of downloading the document	Date of Pre-Bid Meeting	Last Date of submission of bids	EMD (INR)
1.	REQUEST FOR BIDS FOR SELECTION OF HELICOPTER SHUTTLE SERVICE OPERATORS FOR MANDAKINI VALLEY TO SHRI KEDARNATH JI ROUTE Ref. No.: (2546/RFB/SHUTTLE/UCADA/2026	17/01/2026	22/01/2026	05/02/2026	45,00,000/-

Details can be obtained from the website **www.uktenders.gov.in** and/or **www.ucada.in** from **17/01/2026, 03:00 PM.** The proposal must be submitted online on the portal, **www.uktenders.gov.in** only. **Note:-1.** The corrigendum for the above packages will be uploaded on website **www.uktenders.gov.in** &/or **www.ucada.in. 2.** Email Id **procurement.ucada@gmail.com** may be contacted for any information.

CEO, UCADA

HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE DEPARTMENT
ENGINEERING WING
Office of the Chief Engineer, Arogya Soudha, 3rd Floor, Leprosy Hospital Premises, 1st Cross, Magadi Road, Bengaluru-560 023 Telephone No.080-29557023 E-mail:**cekhsdrp@gmail.com & cekhsdrp-hfws@karnataka.gov.in**
No:HFWD/EW/CE/TA-1&2/AE-3&9/Tender/2025-26/3545 Date:17.01.2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION

The Chief Engineer, HFWD, Engineering Wing, Bengaluru invites tender from eligible contractors registered in KPWD in Two Tender document system in KPPP for the following works.

Sl. No.	Description of works	Approximate Estimate cost (Excluding GST) (Rs. in lakhs)	EMD (Rs.in Lakhs)	Stipulated period for Completion (including monsoon)
1	Construction of Ayushman Arogya Mandir at **(1)** Agrahara, **(2)** Akkanahally Cross-B, **(3)** Chowlagala, **(4)** D-Hosalli, **(5)** Didaga-B, **(6)** Halabelagola, Channarayapattana Taluk at Hassan District. **(7)** Guddada Shankarnahalli, Arsikere Taluk at Hassan District. **(8)** Sulagodu, Alur Taluk at Hassan District (Call-8).	429.10	6.45	5 Months
2	Construction of Ayushman Arogya Mandir at **(1)** Annigere, **(2)** Manchagondanahalli **(3)** S Madapura, **(4)** Birur D, **(5)** Birur E Kaduru Taluk at Chikkamagaluru District. **(6)** Belluru, **(7)** K Kanaburu, N R Pura Taluk at Chikkamagaluru District. **(8)** Balagadi, Koppa Taluk at Chikkamagaluru District. **(9)** Banakal B, Mudigere Taluk, Chikkamagaluru District (Call-6).	489.00	7.34	5 Months
3	Providing Services works to the Basement, Ground and First Floor of the Existing Super Speciality Hospital Building in the premises of HIMS at Hassan.	1570.00	15.70	9 Months

Calendar of Events: for Sl.No.1 & 2
(1) Last date for receipt of tenders: **30.01.2026 up to 16.00 hrs. (2)** Date of Opening of Tenders (Technical Bids): **31.01.2026 at 16.30 hrs.**
Calendar of Events: for Sl.No. 3
(1) Last date for receipt of tenders: **25.02.2026 up to 16.00 hrs. (2)** Date of Opening of Tenders (Technical Bids): **26.02.2026 at 16.30 hrs.**
The tender details can be downloaded from the KPP portal platform. Tenders shall be submitted electronically at **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** and Tender Processing Fee shall also be paid electronically. Interested eligible contractors shall register on the KPP portal platform to participate in this tender.

NOTE: 1. All the rights are reserved by the undersigned for postponement or cancellation of entire tender process, rejection of bids /individual bid etc., without assigning any reason. 2. Henceforth, any changes in the schedule/contents will not be published through newspapers and further changes will be updated only on kpp portal.

Sd/- Chief Engineer, H&FWD, Engineering Wing, Bengaluru

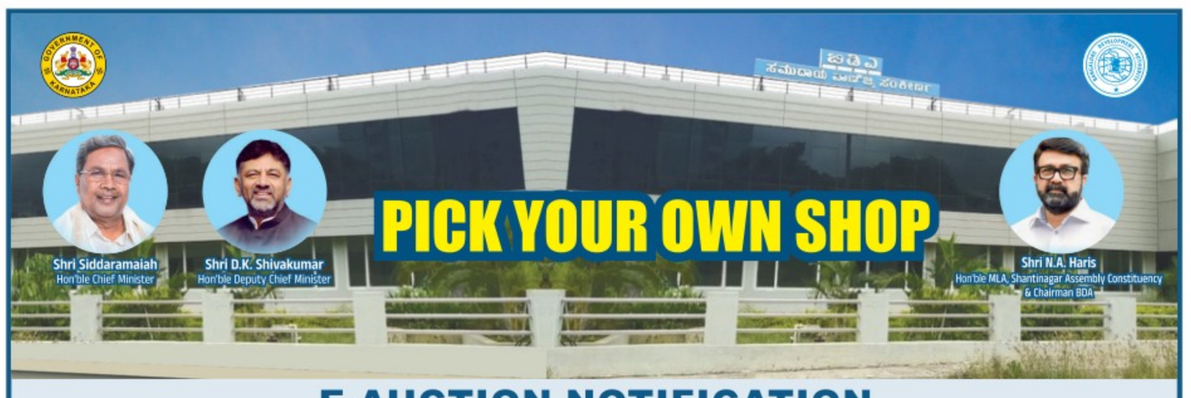
GOVT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
EX-SERVICEMEN CONTRIBUTORY HEALTH SCHEME
STATION HQ (ECHS CELL) BANGALORE
Tele No. 080-25322873, e-mail: echscellbangalore@gmail.com

EMPLOYMENT NOTICE

1. ECHS invites application to engage following **Medical, Para Medical & Non Medical Staff** on contractual basis in ECHS polyclinics located at Madikeri, BRV Bangalore, Mangalore, Shimoga, Virajpet & Whitefield for a **period of one year renewable for additional period of one year/till attaining the maximum age subject to performance of candidates/other conditions according to the criteria as mentioned against each post.**

category	Basic qualification and Work experience	Name of Polyclinic: Madikeri	BRV Bangalore	Mangalore	Shimoga	Virajpet	Whitefield Bangalore	No of vac	Fixed Remuneration	Reserved for ESM and age
OIC	Graduate, Minimum 05 years work experience in Health care institution or Managerial Positions	01	-	01	01	-	-	03#	95,000/-	100% 63 Yrs
Med Spl	MD/MS in General Medicine, Minimum 03 years in specialty after post-Graduation	-	01	-	-	-	-	01@	1,30,000/-	60% 68 Yrs
Medical Officer	MBBS, Minimum 03 years after internship preferable addl qualification in medicine/ surgery	02	-	01	-	01	01	05@	95,000/-	60% 66 Yrs
Dental Officer	BDS, Minimum 03 years work experience	01	-	01	01	01	-	04#	95,000/-	60% 63 Yrs
Lad Assistant	DMLT/Class 1 Lab Tech Course (ESM), Minimum 05 years work experience in Lab	-	01	-	-	-	-	01#	36,500/-	70% 56 Yrs
Lab Tech	Bsc (MTL)/DTLT, Minimum 03 years Experience as Lab Assistant in Medical Lab	01	01	-	-	-	-	02#	36,500/-	
Pharmacist	B Pharmacy/Diploma in Pharmacy and registered as Pharmacist under the Pharmacy Act 1948, Minimum 03 years Work Experience	-	01	-	-	01	01	03#	36,500/-	
Nursing Asst	GNM Diploma/Class I NAC (ESM) & Minimum 05 years experience	-	01	-	01	01	-	03#	36,500/-	
Dental Hygienist	Diploma in DH/Class | DH/DORA Course (ESM), Minimum 05 years experience in Dental Laboratory	-	01	01	01	01	01	05#	36,500/-	
Clerk	Graduate/Class 1 Clk Trade (ESM), Computer Qualifications, Minimum 5 years experience	-	01	-	-	-	01	02#	29,200/-	70% 53 Yrs
Driver	Class 8th/ Class 1 MT Driver (ESM), Possession Civil driving licence. Minimum 05 years experience as driver	-	01	-	01	-	01	03#	25,600/-	
Female Attendant	Literate, Minimum 05 years experience in Civil/Army Health institution	-	-	01	-	-	-	01@	21,800/-	
Chowkidar	Class 8th or GD Trade (ESM)	-	-	-	01	-	01	02@	21,800/-	
Peon	Class 8th or GD Trade (ESM) & Minimum 5 years service	-	-	01	01	-	-	02@	21,800/-	
Housekeeper	Literate & Min 05 years service	-	01	-	01	-	-	02@	21,800/-	

2. For Terms & Conditions, Application form & Remuneration. Kindly contact with concerned ECHS Polyclinic for the same / see website **www.echs.gov.in.** For additional details contact Station Cell (ECHS Cell) Bangalore. **Tele No 080-25322873 & email ID: echscellbangalore@gmail.com. Approach ECHS Polyclinic concerned for details if required.** Preference will be given to the Ex-servicemen. **Priority** will be accorded to **Veer Naris/ Widows of ESM** within the ambit of Govt instrs.
3. Last date for receipt of application as per format is 13 Feb 2026. Applications as per requisite format alongwith self-attested photocopies of testimonials in support of Educational Qualifications and Work Experiences will be submitted to OIC ECHS Cell, Station Cell, Cubbon Road Bangalore-560001 by **16 Feb 2026** (1400h). Any **application received after 16 Feb 2026 (1400h) will not be accepted.**
4. Interview Date, Timing & Venue. Only **shortlisted Candidates** will be called for interview & written test at ECHS Cell, Station Cell, Cubbon Road Bangalore. **Interviews & Written Tests (as applicable for the respective posts)** will be **held in 4th week of Feb 2026 at Station Cell, Cubbon Road Bangalore between 0900h to 1500h. #Written test and interview @only interview.** Candidates must **bring all the original certificate/mark sheets/degree of 10th/Matric, 10+2 & Graduation/Post-Graduation/Diploma/ Course, work experience, discharge book, PPO,** service records and two PP size color photograph at the time of interview. No TA/DA claim is admissible.



E-AUCTION NOTIFICATION
Date of Commencement of e-Auction: 28.01.2026

The Bangalore Development Authority proposes to auction shops in the Commercial Complex at Banashankari 2nd Stage on rent basis.

Minimum raise of Bid Price in multiples of Rs. 5000/-

Last date & time to express interest of participation in e-Auction: 13.02.2026, 5.00 p.m. IST
Date of commencement of Live Bidding: 16.02.2026, 11.00 a.m. IST
Last date for bid closing: 17.02.2026 up to 5.00 p.m. (Delta time 5.00 minutes)

Shops at BDA Commercial Complex Banashankari 2nd Stage

Sl. No.	Shop No.	East-West	North-South	Area in Sq.mtrs	Amount
1	F-109	3.20	4.40	14.08	Rs. 15,000
2	F-110	3.20	4.40	14.08	Rs. 15,000
3	F-111	3.20	4.40	14.08	Rs. 14,000
4	F-112	3.20	4.40	14.08	Rs. 14,000
5	F-114	3.70	3.35	12.40	Rs. 12,000
6	F-115	3.70	3.35	12.40	Rs. 12,000
7	F-118	3.70	3.35	12.40	Rs. 12,000

Sl. No.	Shop No.	East-West	North-South	Area in Sq.mtrs	Amount
8	F-121	3.60	3.30	11.88	Rs. 12,000
9	F-122	3.60	3.30	11.88	Rs. 12,000
10	F-123	3.60	3.30	11.88	Rs. 12,000
11	F-124	3.60	3.30	11.88	Rs. 12,000
12	F-126	3.60	3.50	12.60	Rs. 12,000
13	F-128	3.30	7.40	24.42	Rs. 12,000
14	F-130	3.60	3.60	12.96	Rs. 23,500
15	F-133	3.65	3.55	12.96	Rs. 23,500

GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS

1. The Person participating in the e-Auction should be a Citizen of India
2. The EMD Amount of Rs.1.00 lakh (Rupees One Lakh only) is fixed per shop and this amount along with the e-Auction fee should be remitted as mentioned on the e-Procurement portal. 5% Service charge on EMD shall be deducted during refund if remitted to BDA's account instead of E-Auction portal.
3. Successful bidders shall pay 10 months rent within 7 days after the acceptance of their bid by the Competent Authority (successfully quoted bid). Failing to pay the same within stipulated time, EMD shall be forfeited.
   Bank Name:- Canara Bank, BDA Complex Branch, Kumara Krupa West, Bengaluru-560020.
   Savings Account Name:- Bangalore Development Authority, Bengaluru.
   Savings Account Number:- 2828101053014
   IFSC Code No.:- CNRB0002828
   Mode of Payment:- RTGS / NEFT
   Bidders shall pay EMD / Initial Deposit / Full amount from their own bank account only.
4. Uploading of PAN Card in e-auction portal is compulsory (Should be attested by Gazetted Officer/Notary)
5. In case of NRI document should be attested by Embassy Office. NRI's interested in participating in the e-auction may do so by uploading self attested certificates. Successful bidders can submit certification issued by Indian Embassy later.
6. EMD amount of Rs. 1.00 Lakh of unsuccessful bidders will be credited to their Account within 30 working days.
7. **For more general terms and conditions visit our website: www.bdakarnataka.in**
8. **There should be minimum of 2 bidders for the e-auction of shops. Single Bidder will be rejected.**
9. During bidding, if there is any duplication of Nick names for the same shop, such bid will be rejected without assigning any reasons.
10. e-Auction bidders can download the New e-Auction bidding user manual by logging on to the website **https://bdakarnataka.in** For more information contact Karnataka Public Procurement Portal: **080-46010000 & 080-68948777.**
11. Bidders are required to download the prescribed model signature format (in which applicant's name and father's name in Kannada & English Language) and Contact Information format from the website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in,** fill in the details and upload it on the website.
12. Joint Purchasers of the Shop shall specify joint name in the Format provided and jointly upload their Aadhaar card, PAN card, Marriage Certificate, Passport or any other Government issued documents in the e-Auction portal. Later requests for Joint registration will be rejected.
13. The auctioned Shops will be allotted to the successful bidders in the same condition as they are. Bidders participating in the e-auction must physically check the shop before bidding. Shops allotted in the e-auction will not be cancelled / substituted.
14. Bidders participating in e-Auction are meant to adhere to all the terms and conditions specified above.
15. Rent will be increased at 10% per annum and after 5 years, agreement on rent will be extended upon mutual consent.
16. BDA reserves the right to reject the bid without giving any reason.

For further information contact Engineer on 9844336988 and Citizen Asst.Cell: 9483166622

Bangalore Development Authority
T. Chowdaiah Road, Kumara Park West, Bengaluru - 560 020.

No.BDA/EM/Auction/T-18/2025-26 Date: 17.01.2025
Sd/- Engineer Member

Lokayukta Police arrest two senior Excise officials

The action followed a complaint filed by a person who alleged that the officials demanded ₹80 lakh bribe to clear liquor-related licences

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Lokayukta Police on Saturday arrested senior officials of the Excise Department for allegedly demanding and accepting a hefty bribe to clear liquor-related licences. Those arrested have been identified as Jagadeesh Naik, Excise Deputy Commissioner (Bengaluru Urban District-8), and Thammanna K.M., Superintendent of Excise. An Excise constable, Lakkappa Gani, has also been named as an accused person in the case.

An Excise constable identified as Lakkappa Gani has also been named as an accused in the case. FILE PHOTO

The incident

The action followed a complaint filed by one Lakshminarayana, who alleged that the officials demanded ₹80 lakh as bribe for facilitating the issuance of a CL-7 (bar) licence and a microbrewery licence. Acting on the complaint, the Lokayukta Police laid a trap and allegedly caught the officials red-handed, accepting ₹25 lakh, reportedly the first instalment of the bribe.

According to official sources, the Deputy Commissioner and the Superintendent were taken into custody, along with another department employee who was found carrying the bribe amount.

A case has been registered under Section 7(a) of the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 (as amended in 2018).

Further investigation is underway, additional searches in connection with the case are likely.

Kapali comes alive with AMB Cinemas: What does it mean for Kannada films?

Vivek M.V.
BENGALURU

On January 16, 2026, AMB Cinemas opened in Bengaluru with South India's first Dolby Screen. The high-tech screen had replaced another technological wonder for its time, the Kapali Theatre, one of India's first Cinerama screens (a process of using three synchronised projectors to cast images on a wide screen).

The Hyderabad-based AMB Cinemas, a joint venture between Telugu superstar Mahesh Babu and Asian Cinemas, faces the uphill task of thriving in what has turned out to be a desolate locality for movie theatres. Scenes of family members walking to the Box Office at the entrance of the tall structure were an encouraging sign, but we are still far away from witnessing the glory days of Gandhi Nagar again.

Divided opinions

On social media, the reactions to the new nine-screen multiplex have been divided. Hardcore cinephiles are eager to explore innovative film-viewing options, while nostalgic locals feel that the entrance of a Telugu-based film entity at a venue once considered the fortress of Kannada cinema is a setback for Sandalwood.

After its launch in 1968, Kapali screened several Dr. Rajkumar blockbusters, a legacy carried forward by his son, Shivarajkumar (*Om, Jogi*).

Bharath Narang, one of the prominent leaders at Asian Cinemas, isn't ignorant about the rich history of Kapali. "My father was a good friend of Dr. Rajkumar, Vishnuvardhan, and Ambareesh. We want to revive the old memories of this iconic place, and AMB Cinemas is our gift to the people of Karnataka," he told reporters in an interaction.

The K.G. Road, where AMB is housed, is no longer the strong homeground of Kannada cinema. Telugu films tend to acquire several shows across single screens in the area. Industry experts point to the "demand and supply" model, acknowledging the Telugu film industry's ability to produce consistent big films and its advantage of more superstars compared to Sandalwood.

The Hyderabad-based AMB Cinemas, a joint venture between Telugu superstar Mahesh Babu and Asian Cinemas, faces the uphill task of thriving in what has turned out to be a desolate locality for movie theatres. K. MURALI KUMAR

"Kannada movies will never face unfair treatment at AMB," said Sunil Narang, managing director, AMB Cinemas. "One of our main attractions is the in-house canteen that provides quality food at affordable rates. Sathyam Cinemas in Chennai led the way forward with a diverse food experience, with their fluffy vadas being the highlight. At AMB Hyderabad, the biryani is very popular. We plan to introduce Bengaluru's Donne Biryani here. With reasonable ticket prices, we want to offer 7-star service to the people".

The company plans to launch another multiplex in North Bengaluru, near the airport.

The Dolby Screen (dual Barco laser projectors with a special screen designed for supreme clarity), the second largest in India with 586 seats after Pune's screen at Citypride Multiplex, is their marquee attraction. The multiplex has screens with 7.1 Dolby Atmos.

After Bengaluru, Hyderabad is gearing up for the launch of its first Dolby Cinema with the launch of Allu Cinema (superstar Allu Arjun's venture) at Kokapet. The developments prove the robust cinema business of Hyderabad.

"In Andhra, people across the state invest in movies. The passion for cinema is more in Andhra Pradesh than in Tamil Nadu and Karnataka. We have more stars, and they are key to the survival of theatres. I was shocked to know that Urvashi is shutting down in Bengaluru. It's a great screen," said Mr. Narang.

AMB Cinemas will operate with what's best for its business, but the onus of saving the Kannada film industry lies on the guardians of the industry, film critic and author Shyam Prasad told *The Hindu*.

"In the last 15 years, there has not been a big-star Kannada film for Sankranti. So, what options do theatres have? At one point, the Rajkumar family ventured into production and distribsution with great success. We need the modern-day stars to take ownership of the industry and venture into the film business. The youngsters, such as the Shettys (Raj, Rishab, and Rakshit) and Dhananjaya, are producing movies. What's stopping the superstars?," he asked.

Right-wing activist arrested for harassing migrant workers

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Bannerghatta Police have arrested Puneeth Kerehalli, a right-wing activist, on charges of trespassing into migrant workers' homes and threatening them by demanding personal identity and property-related documents.

He also shared videos of his actions on social media, stating that the 'operation' is against illegal Bangladeshi immigrants and condemned the government and the police for their inaction. The videos went viral, and even the opposition BJP leaders tagged in the videos blame the government's inaction.

After news of Puneeth Kerehalli's arrest spread, his supporters attempted to gather near the police station. However, anticipating possible law and order issues following the incident, the police had taken precautionary measures and made the necessary arrangements.

Puneeth Kerehalli was produced before the court and was released on bail. After getting out on bail, he posted another video warning of future consequences.

Scooter rider booked for threatening person with a dagger

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

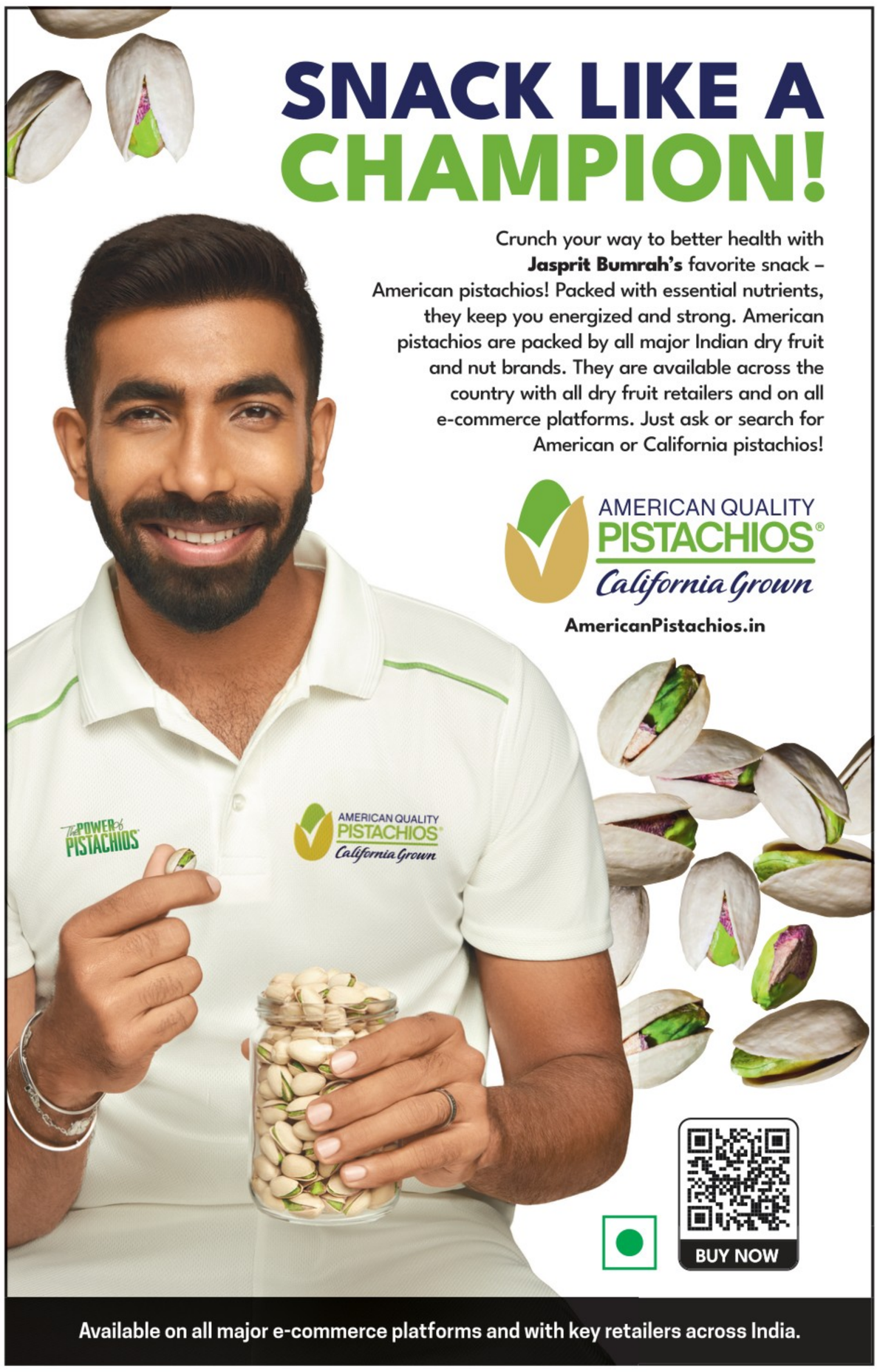
The Kadugodi Police have registered an FIR against a scooter rider for allegedly threatening a car driver with a dagger following a road rage incident on Friday evening.

The victim, identified as A. Reddy, shared the dash camera video and tagged the City Police Twitter (X) handle, seeking police action.

Based on the video evidence, a police constable from the Kadugodi Police Station lodged a complaint. The accused was identified through the scooter's license plate number of the scooter as Arbaz Khan.

Police have booked the accused under relevant provisions of the Arms Act and Sections 351, 352, and 126 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS).

According to the complaint, the accused allegedly pulled out a dagger during a heated argument on the road, abused the complainant, threatened him with dire consequences, and issued death threats before fleeing the scene.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Not the master planner it was meant to be

GBA has now replaced BDA as the Local Planning Authority for Bengaluru, divesting the authority of the core objective of its formation

BDA @ 50

K.V. Aditya Bharadwaj
BENGALURU

As the Local Planning Authority (LPA) for Bengaluru, the planning function being the major differentiator to its predecessor City Improvement Trust Board (CITB) - the Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) has always been found wanting.

Bengaluru has gone without an updated master plan for over a decade, after the last Revised Master Plan - 2015 expired. FILE PHOTO

No plan for a decade

Bengaluru has gone without an updated master plan for over a decade, after the last Revised Master Plan - 2015 expired. The saga of the Draft RMP - 2031 elucidates the problems with planning under the BDA.

The draft was challenged in the High Court of Karnataka on the grounds that, as per the 74th Amendment of the Constitution, it is the Bengaluru Metropolitan Planning Committee (BMPC) that has to plan for the city. Meanwhile, BDA withdrew the draft after BMRCL brought out a comprehensive mobility plan with Transit Oriented Development (TOD), allowing for densification along metro corridors, which was not part of the RMP - 2031.

Now, as the BDA completes half a century, it is no longer the LPA for Bengaluru, divesting it of the core objective of its formation. Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA), which for the first time brings all the parastatals in the city on its platform, has replaced BDA as the LPA for the GBA area. This, it is hoped, will allow for a holistic planning of the city, which was not possible under the BDA. Meanwhile, BDA will continue as the LPA for the BDA area beyond GBA.

The master plans done by BDA earlier - 1984, 1995, 2005, 2015 - have not earned great laurels either. Though the first CMP, released in 1984, aimed at decongesting the core city and promoting growth around the city's periphery, subsequent plans failed to keep pace with the economic geographies of the city.

'None kept pace'

Even as the city grew the most rapidly since the 1990s to its South East to house the IT corridor and housing for those working there, none of the master plans kept pace, leading to unplanned and unregulated development in these areas characterised by very low road grid, rampant illegal constructions, encroachments of water bodies and storm water drains, leading to heavy traffic congestion, and floods, among others. This is despite Electronics City, which formed a hub around which IT boomed, was established in 1978, just two years after BDA.

Most of the recent layouts developed by the BDA are in the northern and western parts of the city - Vishweshwaraiah Layout, Arkavathi Layout, Nadaprabhu Kempegowda Layout, Dr. K. Shivaram Karanth Layout.

BDA has recently received approval for six new layouts, most of them along Kanakapura Road. The last layout BDA built in South East Bengaluru was HSR Layout in 1985, preceding the IT boom.

While citizens point out that BDA layouts or even apartments in the IT corridor could have improved the housing and road grid issues in the area, BDA sources cited the lack of availability of land at cheaper rates as the reason for this.

Not just land use plans

Champaka Rajagopal from Centre for Policy Research, Delhi, said BDA's Master Plans have so far primarily been spatial in nature and so, incomplete.

"Urban planning in Bengaluru needs to be institutionalised. By this, we mean, three things: one, spatial planning needs to be integrated with economic growth agendas of the state and national governments - this implies that planners need to understand business cycles in multiple markets and non-markets, a skill that yet needs to be cultivated; two, infrastructure needs to be central to spatial planning - this implies not just allocation of land for public purpose but holistically addressing quality education, healthcare, housing for migrant workers and informally occupied areas, transport, water and sanitation; and three, urban planning processes must iteratively respond to urban governance and political accountabilities at the city and ward levels. The GBA, although imperfect in its manifestation of the 74th CAA, promises to bridge these gaps".

Not only are these master plans woefully insufficient, but even these plans are not implemented in full. Roads planned two master plans ago are still not constructed, even as zoning regulations are routinely violated.

"Plans need to be led by shared outcomes. To monitor the orientation of plan implementation, a locally led monitoring and evaluation system needs to be put in place," Ms. Rajagopal said.

In this series, we look at the evolution of the BDA as it turns 50 years old

Second FIR against Embassy Group for illegal tree felling in Kadugodi forest

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

An FIR has been registered against Embassy Group by the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) Forest Cell for illegal felling of trees in the Kadugodi Reserve Forest area. This is the second case linked to tree felling in the same forest patch since 2007. The latest FIR pertains to the felling of 110 trees.

As per the officials, around 400 fully grown trees were documented across the 78-acre forest parcel during a survey conducted in 2006-07. This figure did not include smaller trees, saplings, and seedlings that also fall under the definition of a "tree" as per the Karnataka Preservation of Trees Act, 1976, which classifies any woody plant of at least 5.5 cm diameter and 1 m in height as a tree.

The first instance of illegal tree-felling was detected in 2007, when the Karnataka Forest Department booked a case against Concord India Private Ltd., the company then associated with the land. A penalty of ₹1 lakh was imposed, following which tree-felling activity reportedly ceased for some time.

In 2020, the erstwhile BBMP Forest Cell issued permission for the felling of 42 trees in the area. Forest officials said that say this permission was issued by circumventing statutory safeguards, as the law mandates a public advertisement and hearing proposals involving the removal of more than 50 trees.

Using this permission, hundreds of trees were allegedly felled between 2022 and 2025, exceeding the number authorised. The investigation has also found that no permits were obtained for transporting the timber.

This comes amid an ongoing battle over the ownership and status of the larger Kadugodi forest land.

The Embassy Group had begun work on an IT park on 78.54 acres of the same land four months after the Forest Department decided to file an appeal before the Supreme Court to reclaim 449 acres of forest land in Kadugodi valued at over ₹22,000 crore.

The Embassy group was not available for comments.

Demolition drive at nine locations

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Survey and clearance operations were conducted in Hebbal, Vidyaranyapura, Yelahanka, and Byatarayanapura divisions

The North City Corporation on Saturday carried out demolition and clearance operations against illegal constructions at nine locations across its jurisdiction, following directions issued by Corporation Commissioner Pommala Sunil Kumar.

The action targeted portions and additional floors of buildings that had been constructed either without authorisation or in deviation from approved building plans. The commissioner had instructed officials to identify unauthorised constructions, plan violations and encroachments on government land, and to initiate strict enforcement measures.

Survey and clearance operations were conducted in the Hebbal, Vidyaranyapura, Yelahanka and Byatarayanapura divisions.

Access to toilet

The East City Corporation Commissioner, D.S. Ramesh, has issued instructions to ensure access to toilet facilities for all sanitation workers, following complaints of denial of access at public and commercial establishments.

The directive was issued after the Chairman of the Karnataka State Safai Karmachari Commission, P. Raghu, held an interaction with sanitation staff, who highlighted the severe difficulties they face due to the lack of accessible toilets at work locations.

Officials warned that strict legal action would be initiated against any individual or establishment found obstructing or restricting sanitation workers from accessing toilets.

RUAS inks pact with State University of New York

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Ramaiah University of Applied Sciences (RUAS), Bengaluru, hosted a delegation from the University at Albany, State University of New York (SUNY), led by president Dr. Havidán Rodríguez on Friday, culminating in the signing of four MoUs, establishing a comprehensive India-U.S. collaboration.

A key highlight is the joint development of a BTech programme in VLSI Design and Technology at RUAS, aligned with SUNY Albany's nanoscale engineering standards.

ARMY PUBLIC SCHOOL
ASC CENTRE & COLLEGE AGRAM - POST, BANGALORE-560007
Phone: 080 25550677
Website: www.apsasc.edu.in

TENDER NOTICE

Sealed quotations are invited for purchase of PA equipment's for Army Public School ASC Centre & College (APS ASC C&C). Tender Enquiry/ Form can be collected from school office after payment of Rs.250/- (Demand Draft in favour of APS ASC C&C) from 18 Jan 2026 to 24 Jan 2026 (0900hrs to 1200hrs). Last date and time to submit filled tender form is 27 Jan 2026 at 1230 hrs.

Presiding Officer/Member 1
For School Management

ARMY PUBLIC SCHOOL
ASC CENTRE & COLLEGE AGRAM - POST, BANGALORE-560007
Phone: 080 25550677
Website: www.apsasc.edu.in

TENDER NOTICE

Sealed quotations are invited for construction of garbage shed at PPW of Army Public School ASC Centre & College (APS ASC C&C). Tender Enquiry/Form can be collected from school office after payment of Rs.250/- (Demand Draft in favour of APS ASC C&C) from 18 Jan 2026 to 24 Jan 2026 (0900hrs to 1200hrs). Last date and time to submit filled tender form is 27 Jan 2026 at 1230 hrs.

Presiding Officer/Member 1
For School Management

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
E-Tender Notice No. SWR/W/TS/USFD/ 2026/01/E Dated : 09-01-2026
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-Tenders for the following works.

Name of the Work	Approx. Value
Ultrasonic Testing of AT welds on loop lines in Mysuru Division. (E-tender No. SWR-MYS-USFD-ATW-202601)	Rs. 15,36,480/-

Last date for submission of bids: Upto 15:00 Hrs on 10-02-2026
For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in
Deputy Chief Engineer / Track Procurement/HQ/Hubballi
PUB/819/AAS/PRB/SWR/2025-26
Download the UTS Mobile App from Google Play Store for ease of booking of unreserved tickets
South Western Railway-SWR SWRRLY @SWRAILWAYHQ @sw_railways

South East Central Railway
Tender Notice for Miscellaneous Work
Srl. No. (1) E-Tender No.DRM-ENGG-BSP-T-175-25-26, Date: 09/01/2026.
Work: Execution of track work like TFR, TRR(P), CTR(S), Gluid joints, SEJ, TTR etc under the jurisdiction of Sr. DEN/Central, Bilaspur.. **Tender Value** (In Rs.): ₹ 2,99,35,508.11/-, **EMD** (In Rs.): ₹ 2,99,700.00/- , **Completion Period: 12** Months.
Srl. No. (2) E-Tender No.DRM-ENGG-BSP-T-176-25-26, Date: 09/01/2026.
Work: Execution of track work like TSR(P), - 26.403 Kms. etc under the jurisdiction of Sr. DEN/Central, Bilaspur. **Tender Value** (In Rs.): ₹ 3,18,51,668.03/-, **EMD** (In Rs.): ₹ 3,09,300.00/- , **Completion Period: 12** Months.
Start date of Submission of Tender: From 11.00 hrs. on 19-01-2026, **Last date of Submission of Tender:** Upto 11.00 hrs. on 02-02-2026. The complete information of above e-Tender. Notices is available over websites **https:// www.ireps.gov.in** Bids other than e-bids shall not be accepted against above Tenders.
Divl. Railway Manager (Engg.)
S.E.C.Railway, Bilaspur
CPR/10/FL/614
South East Central Railway @secrail

BENGALURU NORTH CITY CORPORATION
Office of the Executive Engineer, Special Division, Amruthahalli Main Road, Byatarayanapura, Bengaluru - 560092.
No: BNCC/EE/SD/TEND/10/2025-26 Date: 17-01-2026
INVITATION FOR TENDER (IFT) - (SHORT TERM)
(Two Cover System) (Through GOK KPP Portal only)
The Executive Engineer, Special Division, BNCC Bengaluru invites tender from eligible registered agencies in any state Govt. Organization for providing services mentioned in the Table below.

Sl. No.	Name of the Projects
1	Implementing Animal birth Control (ABC), Antirabies Vaccination (ARV & Combined) and Deworming For Stray Dogs in Zone-1 of BNCC. **Amount put to tender (Rs. in Lakhs): 180.00. EMD (Rs. in Lakhs): 2.70.**
2	Implementing Animal birth Control (ABC), Antirabies Vaccination (ARV & Combined) and Deworming For Stray Dogs in Zone-2 of BNCC. **Amount put to tender (Rs. in Lakhs): 108 .00. EMD (Rs. in Lakhs): 1.62.**

Calendar of Events: 1) Tender Document may be downloaded from the GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in 2)** Last date & time for Queries (only through online): **31-01-2026 upto 4.00 P.M. 3)** Date & time of Pre Bid Meeting : **31-01-2026 at 3.00 P.M. 4)** Last Date & Time for receipt of tenders: **07-02-2026 upto 4.00 P.M. 5)** Date of Opening of Technical bid on: **09-02-2026 at 11.00 AM (if possible or next working day). 6)** Date of Opening of Financial bid on: **12-02-2026 at 4.00 PM (if possible).** Further details can be had from the above office.
Sd/- Executive Engineer, Special Division, BNCC.

Jawaharlal Nehru Aluminium Research Development and Design Centre
(An Autonomous Body under Ministry of Mines, Govt. of India)
Opp.Wadi Police Station, Amravati Road,Wadi Nagpur-440023
www.jnarddc.gov.in
भर्ती सूचना / RECRUITMENT NOTICE No. 59 - (January 2026)
जे.एन.ए.आर.डी.डी.सी., नागपुर अस्थायी निम्नलिखित पद के लिए आवेदन आमंत्रित करता है। JNARDDC, Nagpur invites applicants for the following **temporary posts in NCMM.**

Name of the Contractual Post	**Consultant (PMA – Technical / Project Support) - NCMM**
Name of the Project /Assignment	Incentive Scheme for Promotion of Critical Mineral Recycling
No of Post	Two (2)
Nature of post &likely duration	Temporary /Contract basis for two years (Renewable after one year based on the performance and total period of engagement is maximum two years)
Maximum Age	**35 Yrs**
Essential Qualification	Master's Degree in Geology / Applied Geology / Exploration Geology / Earth Sciences / Geophysics/ Metallurgy Business Administration / Mineral Economics / Project Management.
Essential Experience	Minimum 2 years post-qualification in relevant field.
Desirable	The Consultants should possess relevant experience in areas such as mining, mineral processing, critical minerals, policy analysis, project management, or allied fields.
Fixed monthly remunerations	**1,25,000 / -**
Place of posting	New Delhi. However, candidates can be posted anywhere in India depending on functional requirement.

Scan QR Code for Application Form
आवेदन फॉर्म के लिए QR कोड स्कैन करें

Interested candidates are requested to apply online by scanning the QR Code and/or using the google form available at: https://www.jnarddc.gov.in/en/opputunities/contractual_temporary.aspx.
Shortlisted candidates will be invited for an interview. Date and timings of interview will be intimated via e-mail to the shortlisted candidates. The decision of Director, JNARDDC will be final in all matters related to the above recruitment. **Detailed application format** along with terms and conditions can be downloaded from the Centre's website http://jnarddc.gov.in/en/opputunities/career.aspx under the sub-head Career. **Closing Date: 31st Jan 2026.**
वरिष्ठ प्रशासनिक अधिकारी

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-Tenders for the following works.
E-Tender Notice No. Y/E.29/2025-26/74 Dated : 06-01-2026

Name of the Work	Approx. Value
Provision of Roof Top Solar plants in major colonies over Mysuru Division. (IRPSM ID: 14.03.36.25.3.52.006)	Rs. 1,35,05,862/-

Last date for submission of bids: Upto 11:00 Hrs on 28-01-2026
E-Tender Notice No. Y/E.29/2025-26/75 Dated : 08-01-2026

Name of the Work	Approx. Value
Strengthening of incoming power supply and Re-wiring of staff Qtrs VRC/Mysuru Type-III : 16 Nos., Type-II : 14 Nos. and Nanjangud Town Type-II : 17 Nos., Total 47 Nos. (IRPSM ID : 14.03.36.25.3.52.008)	Rs. 73,83,128.65

Last date for submission of bids: Upto 11:00 Hrs on 30-01-2026
E-Tender Notice No. Y/E.29/2025-26/76 Dated : 08-01-2026

Name of the Work	Approx. Value
(Re-tender) Additional High Mast at Station Yards over Mysuru Division. (IRPSM ID : 14.03.16.24.3.00.015)	Rs. 1,29,15,926/-

Last date for submission of bids: Upto 11:00 Hrs on 30-01-2026
For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in
Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer/General
PUB/818/AAS/PRB/SWR/2025-26 Mysuru
Download the UTS Mobile App from Google Play Store for ease of booking of unreserved tickets
South Western Railway-SWR SWRRLY @SWRAILWAYHQ @sw_railways

PUBLIC NOTICE

My clients **Shri VINAY SINGH B.** aged about 42 years. **S/o. B S BALASHAM SINGH, and Smt INDIRA. aged about 61 year, W/o. B S BALASHAM SINGH,** both residing at No. 18, 1st Floor, 4th Cross, 1st Main Road, 5th Phase. Mahaganapathinagar, W.O.C Road. Bangalore North. Rajajinagar. Bangalore-560010 is intending to purchase the Schedule Property from its sole and absolute owner **Smt H B JALAJAKSH1 W/o. S GOWRISHANKARA SWAMY,** Resident of No. 641, 12th Main Road. 46th Cross, 3rd Block, Rajajinagar. Bangalore- 560010.

Public are hereby notified that if any person including Banks and Financial Institutions has any claims, right. title, interest, objection or disputes on the schedule property or in respect of the purchase transaction to be entered by my client, they may submit their objections with documentary proof within 10 days from the date of issue of this notice to the undersigned. failing which may client shall proceed with execution of the purchase, transaction and no claims, objection, disputes shall be entertained from thereon on the schedule property.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All the piece and parcel of Property bearing No. 641. (New No. 12/1) 12th Main Road. 46th A Cross, 3rd Block. Rajajinagar. Bangalore-560010. measuring East to West- 41 ft and North to South 30 ft, in total measuring 1230 sq ft bounded as follows:-

East: House No.640,
West: 12th Main road,
North: 46th A Cross,
South: Property of H B Dakshayani

Place: Bengaluru
Date: 14-01-2026
Sd/-
NATESH D,
Advocate and Notary,
#1162, 5th Cross, Prakash Nagar, Bengaluru-560021
Mob: 8095344876, 9448394385

THE KARUR VYSYA BANK LTD
Karur Vysya Bank Smart way to bank
DIVISIONAL OFFICE BUILDING
No.6, 2nd Floor, Shri Vasavi Temple Road, Sajjan Rao Circle, V V Puram, Bangalore - 560004
SAFE DEPOSIT LOCKER BREAK OPEN PUBLIC NOTICE
The following hirers have availed safe deposit locker facility from the following branches and failed to renew the same within the stipulated time, in spite of repeated notices issued to them by **The Karur Vysya Bank Ltd.** Since the hirers have failed to pay the locker rent dues, we are constrained to break open of the said locker on the following dates, at the concerned branch premises at **10.30 AM.**
This Public Notice is to the hirers and also applies to their legal heirs of the deceased if any. A Copy of this Notice is sent by Registered Post with Acknowledgement Due (RPAD) to the Hirers/Legal Heirs to pay the total locker arrears within the date of break open. The notices are sent to the addresses available last with the branch.
The Karur Vysya Bank Ltd has the authority to change the Break Opening Date without any prior notice.

Sl. No	HIRER/s NAME	Locker No.	Amount Due (₹)	Date of Break open	Branch Address And Contact No.
1	Shetty B S	1314001B010	11,682	29.01.2026	4-6-535/536 Essel Chambers, K.R.Rao Road, Karangalpady, Mangalore – 575003. 9742221550

Date : 17.01.2026
Place: Bangalore
Sd/- Authorized Officer
The Karur Vysya Bank Limited

INDIAN BANK
इंडियन बैंक Indian Bank इलाहाबाद ALLAHABAD
BANNERGHATTA ROAD BRANCH
Bengaluru - 560 076.
DEMAND NOTICE
Notice under Sec. 13 (2) of The Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002.
Sent on 09.01.2026 by Regd. Post

1. **Mr. Arun Vishwakarna S/o Mr. Indradev Vishwakarma (Borrower),** Address: #17/8/34, 4th Cross, Smrithinagar, Hommadevanahalli, Basavanapura, Bannerghatta Road, Bengaluru-560 061.
2. **Mrs.Geetha W/o Mr. Arun Vishwakarna (Gaurantor),** Address: #17/8/34, 4th Cross, Smrithinagar, Hommadevanahalli, Basavanapura, Bannerghatta Road, Bengaluru-560 061.
3. **Mr. Pappu Lal Sonkar S/o Sadhuram Shankar. (Gaurantor)** No. 511/2, Vallabhanagar, Mashanada Division, Uttarahalli, Subramanyapura Post, Bengaluru-560061.

Sub: Your loan account/s 50297227963 with Indian Bank Branch: Bannerghatta Road. - Reg

You committed default in repayment of loans to the tune **Rs.14,45,743/- (Rupees Fourteen Lakh Forty-Five Thousand Seven Hundred Forty-Three Only)** and the said amount carries further interest at agreed rate from 07.01.2025 till date of repayment.
The Bank, issued notice under the Act on 06.01.2026 calling upon you to repay the outstanding amount of tune **Rs.14,45,743/- (Rupees Fourteen Lakhs Forty Five Thousand Seven Hundred Forty Three Only)** as on 06.01.2026The notice was sent to you by Regd post has been returned unserved.
You are called upon to pay tune **Rs.14,45,743/- (Rupees Fourteen Lakhs Forty-Five Thousand Seven Hundred Forty-Three Only)** together with interest from 07.01.2026 till date of payment within 60 days from the date of this notice failing which Bank, will be constrained to exercise rights of enforcement of security interest as against the secured assets given in the schedule hereunder. This Notice is without prejudice to any other right / remedy available to the Secured Creditor.
"We draw attention to the provisions of Section 13(8) of the SARFAESI Act and the Rules framed there under which deals with your rights of redemption over the securities"
This Notice is without prejudice to any other remedy available to the Secured Creditor - including its right to proceed with the proceedings presently pending before DRT/RO of DRT/DRAT/Court and proceed with the execution of order/ decree obtained/to be obtained.

SCHEDULE-IMMOVABLE (MORTGAGED PROPERTIES)

The specific details of the assets in which security interest is created are enumerated hereunder.

SCHEDULE A (PROPERTY DETAILS)
All that Piece and Parcel of the immovable Property in Sy.No.43, BBMP KHATHA No.220/43, in ward.192, Gottigere Village, Uttarahalli Hobli, Bengaluru South Taluk (duly Converted Order No.ALN(S.U) SR:174/2010-11, dated 03.05.2011, issued by Special Deputy Commissioner, Bengaluru) now property comes under the administrative jurisdiction of Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike. Measuring 1 Acre 14 Guntas and bounded by: East by: Re-Sy.No.61, West by: Private Property, North by: Sy.No.44 and Road, South by: Himagiri Properties.

SCHEDULE B(FLAT DETAILS)
Residential apartment bearing 1 BHK Flat No.115, on the First Floor of Block-A, in the apartment building known as "PRUTHVI ROYAL". Measuring 801 Sq.ft of super built up area together with 206 sq.ft of undivided share, title, interest of ownership in the Schedule A, Property Situated At Gottigere Village, Uttarahalli Hobli, Bengaluru South Taluk, (duly Converted Order No.ALN(S.U) SR:174/2010-11, dated 03.05.2011, issued by Specail Deputy commissioner, Bengaluru) now property comes under the Administrative Jurisdiction of Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike. Boundaries of the Property: East by: Open to Sky, West by: Flat Entrance, North by: Flat no110, South by: Flat no 112

Date: 17/01/2026
Place: Bangaluru
AUTHORIZED OFFICER

Published by Nirmala Lakshman at No 19&21, Bhagwan Mahaveer Road, Bengaluru-560001 and Printed by C. Sridhar at Plot No. 13-D, Bommasandra-Jigani Link Road, KIADB Industrial Area, Bommasandra, Anekal Taluk, Bengaluru-560099 on behalf of THG PUBLISHING PVT LTD., Chennai-600002. Editor: Suresh Nambath (Responsible for selection of news under the PRP Act).
ISSN 0971 - 751X

MP seeks NCW intervention over threats to municipal officer

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

K. Sudhakar, MP for Chickballapur, has written to the National Commission for Women (NCW) seeking urgent intervention over alleged verbal abuse and threats issued to Sidlaghatta City Municipal Commissioner Amrutha Gowda by Congress leader Rajeev Gowda.

In his letter to the NCW chairperson, Mr. Sudhakar termed the incident "deeply troubling" and said it reflected an alarming disregard for the dignity of women officers in public administration.

The complaint refers to a purported audio clip, widely circulated in the district, in which Mr. Rajeev Gowda, a KPCC State coordinator and former Sidlaghatta Assembly candidate, is heard hurling abuses at the Commissioner after officials removed an allegedly unauthorised banner from a public road.

Dr. Sudhakar said such behaviour from a political functionary entrusted with public responsibility was unacceptable and constituted "an affront to constitutional propriety, civil service dignity, and gender justice".

The MP urged the Commission to take *suo motu* cognisance of the case.

Police being booked in 88 criminal cases last year 'shameful', says CM

Siddaramaiah says the police from other States cracking major drug cases in Karnataka is 'embarrassing' and adds that the the government is contemplating a tougher law for drug offences

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Saturday termed as "shameful" police personnel in Karnataka themselves being involved in 88 criminal cases in the past year.

During the legislative session in December, Home Minister G. Parameshwara had given data that showed that criminal cases had been registered against 88 police personnel and officers for their alleged involvement in criminal activities.

Addressing the annual conference of police officers on Saturday, the Chief Minister said that such cases – where protectors turn predators – are "unpardonable" and bring a bad name to both the the police force and the government.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, along with Home Minister G. Parameshwara and Director-General of Police M.A. Saleem, during the inauguration of the annual conference of senior police officers in Bengaluru on Saturday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Cybercrime, narcotics

Speaking on the crime rate in Karnataka, he said it had reduced significantly in the past few years, but cybercrime and cases under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act continue to remain a serious challenge.

Police from other States cracking major drug cases in Karnataka was "embarrassing" for the State police, he said. He urged the Karnataka Police to intensify their crackdown on drug networks operating in the State.

Warning that irregularities in prisons and any failure in controlling drug networks would not be tolerated, the Chief Minister said the government is prepared to introduce a new law in the forthcoming legislative session to ensure tougher action against those involved in drug-related offences.

"If there is any requirement to amend or strengthen the law to deal with the drug menace more effectively, the government will not hesitate to do so," Mr. Siddaramaiah said.

Urging the police not to give leeway to the powerful and anti-social elements, he urged the police to protect the weak, Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, and religious minorities as a collective responsibility.

Mr. Siddaramaiah also pointed out that Karnataka continues to record a low conviction rate in criminal cases. In cases of atrocities against Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, the conviction rate has improved from around 3% last year to 12% this year, but further improvement is needed, he said.

He said many crimes could be prevented through better vigilance and preparedness, including the stampede case at the stadium. Incidents such as ATM robberies and the banner-related violence in Ballari too could have been avoided with proper precautionary measures, he added

The Chief Minister expressed concern over the increasing incidence of cybercrime and said effective use of modern technology is essential to tackle the problem.

Link to development

Mr. Siddaramaiah said law and order and development are closely linked. "Only when law and order is strong will investments increase and development take place," he said.

State attracted fresh investment proposals worth ₹1.53 lakh cr. post GIM: Patil

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Karnataka has attracted several new industrial proposals and investments worth ₹1.53 lakh crore in 11 months after the State's biannual business exploratory exposition Global Investors' Meet (GIM) held in February 2025, said Minister for Large and Medium Industries M.B. Patil here on Saturday.

He said these investments were in addition to the commitments the State secured during GIM. Karnataka's efforts to attract investments were continuous in nature and won't be limited to GIM alone, he said, ahead of his visit to the World Economic Forum summit at Davos, where he would be part of a high-level delegation.

M.B. Patil

In key sectors

According to Mr. Patil, several leading companies have expressed interest in investing across key sectors such as manufacturing, renewable energy, data centres and Global Capability Centres (GCCs).

Sharing the breakup of these new investments, the Minister said ₹66,293 crore pertained to the manufacturing and industrial sector, ₹20,913 crore came from wind and solar power generation segment, ₹12,500 crore towards the establishment of GCCs, and ₹6,350 crore for setting up of data centres.

Some players

Among key investments, he said Toyota Industries Engine would invest ₹1,330 crore to manufacture gasoline and hybrid engines at its Jigani facility; QAI India will invest ₹1,136 crore to establish a Quantum Centre of Excellence in Bengaluru; AT&S would invest ₹2,850 crore in Nanjangud for the manufacture of electronic components; Wipro Hydraulics would invest ₹499 crore to produce copper laminates required for the electronics and PCB sectors, and enfold Biosciences would invest ₹490 crore to manufacture enzymes used in the pharmaceutical sector.

DKS skips Davos visit citing busy schedule

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar has called off his proposed visit to the World Economic Forum (WEF) in Davos, Switzerland, citing prior official commitments in New Delhi and Bengaluru.

According to an official statement issued on Saturday, Mr. Shivakumar has several meetings scheduled with AICC leaders in connection with the Assam Assembly elections. He is also leading the State's campaign against the NDA government over the Union government replacing the MGNREGA with VB-G RAM G Act. A special session of the Karnataka legislature on this issue is set to begin on January 22.

This has sparked speculation about the stability of the current leadership in the State. The development follows a brief interaction between Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, and Mr. Shivakumar in Mysuru on Tuesday, adding to rumours that the party's high command may be intervening in the ongoing leadership tussle.

The internal power struggle within the ruling Congress has gained momentum since the government crossed the halfway mark of its five-year term on November 20.

Law and order has collapsed, says BJP

BJP leaders at the residence of Rajashekhar Reddy, Congress worker who died in the Ballari clash on January 1, in Ballari on Saturday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The Hindu Bureau
KALABURAGI

The BJP on Saturday mounted a sharp offensive against the Congress government, alleging a complete breakdown of law and order in Karnataka.

Addressing a public gathering in Ballari city, organised as a show of strength in the backdrop of the January 1 banner-related clash and firing incident that claimed the life of Congress worker Rajashekhar Reddy, BJP State president B.Y. Vijayendra said the recent incidents of violence, firing, murders, robberies, and assaults in Ballari were "direct evidence" of the collapse of governance in the State.

'Covering up'

"Even after a firing incident that led to the death of an innocent party worker, the government has not shown any sense of responsibility. Attempts are being made to dilute and cover up serious cases," he alleged.

Mr. Vijayendra also clarified that the BJP leadership had no objection to the padayatra announced by former Minister B. Sriramulu and MLA for Gangavati Gali Janardhana Reddy, asserting that it was a struggle for justice and not directed against any individual or community.

Former Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai said violence could not be justified under any circumstances. "The clash was politically motivated. Political hatred should not be allowed to push the State into violence," he said.

Former Deputy Chief Minister Govind Karjol accused the Congress government of suppressing democratic dissent and claimed that public anger against the government was rising. He warned that the Ballari protest would mark the beginning of a State-wide agitation against "misrule and political violence".

Leader of Opposition in the Legislative Council Chalavadi Narayanaswamy questioned the delay in arrests.

The BJP leaders collectively demanded the immediate arrest of Bharath Reddy and sought the transfer of the case to the Central Bureau of Investigation.

₹10 lakh to victim's kin

Earlier in the day, senior BJP leaders visited the residence of Rajashekhar Reddy. Mr. Janardhana Reddy and his wife Aruna Lakshmi presented a cheque for ₹10 lakh to the bereaved family.

Mr. Sriramulu promised the family that the BJP would stand by them.

KSRTC cracks down on ticketless travel

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The KSRTC intensified its enforcement efforts against ticketless travel through a statewide drive conducted in December 2025. According to an official release, the staff inspected 43,553 buses during the month-long drive. The checks led to the detection of 4,207 cases of pilferage and the penalisation of 4,353 passengers found travelling without valid tickets.

The KSRTC collected a total fine of ₹8,08,704 from the offenders. Officials stated that such drives help curb revenue loss.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to the general public that my client **MR. G. SHAHID-UR-REHMAN,** S/o Late Ghouse Pasha, is intended to purchase the Schedule Property more fully described below. The said property is proposed to be purchased from the following owners:
1. SMT. SYEDA AKHTARUNNISA, W/o Late Mohamed Azizur Rahman, and SMT. QAMAR TASKEEN AFTAB, W/o Syed Aftab Ahmed,
SMT. QAMAR TASKEEN AFTAB, W/o Syed Aftab Ahmed, represented by their General Power of Attorney Holder, MR. MOHAMED MOINUR REHMAN, @ MOHAMED M. REHMAN S/o Mohamed Azeezur Rehman @ Mohamed Azizur Rahman, who are jointly holding 500 (Five Hundred) square feet of Undivided Share (UDS) in the Schedule Property; and the above-named owners have acquired their respective shares under a valid and absolute Sale Deed dated 09-08-1994 and are the lawful owners having clear, marketable, and transferable title.
2. SMT. FAHIMA SHAHEEN, W/o. Mohammed Inayath @ Mohammed Inayathulla, who is the absolute owner of the remaining 1000 (One Thousand) square feet of Undivided Share (UDS) in the Schedule Property.
The above-mentioned owners have acquired their respective shares in the Schedule Property under valid and absolute Sale Deeds, dated 26.09.2002 and they are the lawful owners having clear, marketable, and transferable title.
Hence hereby issued inviting claims, objections, or demands, if any, from any person or persons having any right, title, interest, charge, lien, mortgage, agreement of sale, lease, inheritance claim, or any other encumbrance whatsoever over the Schedule Property or any part thereof.
Such claims or objections, if any, must be made in writing along with supporting document to the undersigned **within 15 (Fifteen) days** from the date of publication of this notice, failing which it shall be presumed that there are no claims or objections, and the proposed transaction shall be proceeded with. Any claims received thereafter shall not be entertained.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of Site bearing No. 53 (Old No. 3), 5th Cross Road, bearing BBMP Property Identification Numbers (PID) No. 64-18-53 and 64-18-53/1, E-Khatha Nos. 4283902511 and 7657669926, situated at New Gurappanapalaya, 8th Main Road, Maruthi Extension, Bengaluru 560029, falling within the limits of Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP), Ward No. 170, Khatha standing in the names of the respective owners, comprising a total extent of 1500 (One Thousand Five Hundred) square feet, measuring East to West 50 (Fifty) feet and North to South 30 (Thirty) feet, together with the existing building consisting of Ground Floor, First Floor, Second Floor, and Terrace area, along with all easements, appurtenances, pathways, and rights attached thereto, and bounded on the:
East by : Road,
West by : Property of Vokkaligara Thyappa,
North by : Property bearing Old No. 4,
South by : Property bearing Old No. 2,

Advocate for the Purchaser
Kanakaraj. J
SK Law Associates
#27, 1st Floor, PVR Road, Ranasinghpet,
Bengaluru -560053 Mobile: 98868 33330
Email: advkkrj@gmail.com

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

REMEMBRANCE

FOREVER REMEMBERED

I will dwell in the house of the
Lord forever. - Psalm 23:6

Mr. M. J. PRATAP SINGH
20-11-1931 - 18-01-2024
FOUNDER CHAIRMAN - EAGLE PRESS GROUP

Mrs. POPPY PRATAP SINGH
11-11-1934 - 29-07-2010

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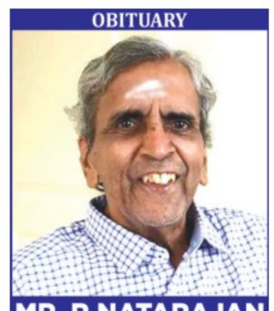
Dr. Sheila Sathiakumar & Dr. D. B. D. Sathiakumar
P. Sam Prasad & Mrs. Ponmani Prasad
Grand children & Great grand children
&
Eagle Press Group Family.

DEATH

OBITUARY



MR. R.NATARAJAN
Retd. Executive Director- IOB
Attained lotus feet on 17-01-2026. Final rites on 19-01-2026 at Chennai
Grieved by
Son: Bala Natarajan (Dharani), +91-7358365697
Daughter: Santhanalakshmi.N. (Harini) +91-9444165181

REMEMBRANCE

EIGHTEENTH ANNIVERSARY

N.S. SREENIVASAN
18.12.1933 - 18.01.2008
Ex. SQC ISI, &
Ex. GM.IDL.Ind. Hyd.
He touched many lives in his own way. Restless till goal was achieved.
Although 18 years are over since he left us, his memories remain fresh in our heart.
He lives with us for ever.
V. Narayana,
His Boyhood Friend &
One with his family

IN MEMORY OF YOUR LOVED ONES
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DONATE EYES GIFT SIGHT

‘SIR a harrowing experience for voters’

MLA alleges that around 60 lakh voters in Kerala have been pushed into uncertainty; the delegation demands new enrolments under SIR be allowed till February 14, and that facilities for enrolment and corrections be extended through panchayat and village offices to help voters

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The Kerala Pradesh Congress Committee (KPCC) has asked the Election Commission of India (EC) to avoid summoning voters for hearings under the special intensive revision (SIR) of electoral roll in cases listed as ‘logical discrepancies’ (inconsistencies in entries) and in non-mapping cases where voters are able to produce documents.

A little over 4.8 lakh applications have so far been filed for fresh enrolment in electoral roll. THULASI KAKKAT

A KPCC delegation consisting of MLAs Mathew Kuzhalnadan, P.C. Vishnunadh and M. Vincent, which met Chief Electoral Officer (Kerala) Rathan U. Kelkar on Saturday, said that the SIR has snowballed into a “harrowing and vexing experience” for the voters.

“The manner in which the Absent/Shifted/Dead (ASD) list, non-mapping list, and logical discrepancy list are being generated and acted upon has placed a significant number of genuine voters at risk of exclusion,” it said in a representation to the EC.

The Congress has also demanded that new enrolments under SIR be allowed till February 14.

Mr. Kuzhalnadan said that apart from 24.08 lakh listed in the ASD list, and 19.32 lakh people listed as non-mapped (meaning they could not be linked to the 2002 SIR list), 18 lakh voters are also included on the ‘logical discrepancy’ list.

“This means that the EC, which should be encouraging new enrolments in the voters’ list, has instead pushed around 60 lakh existing voters into uncertainty,” he alleged.

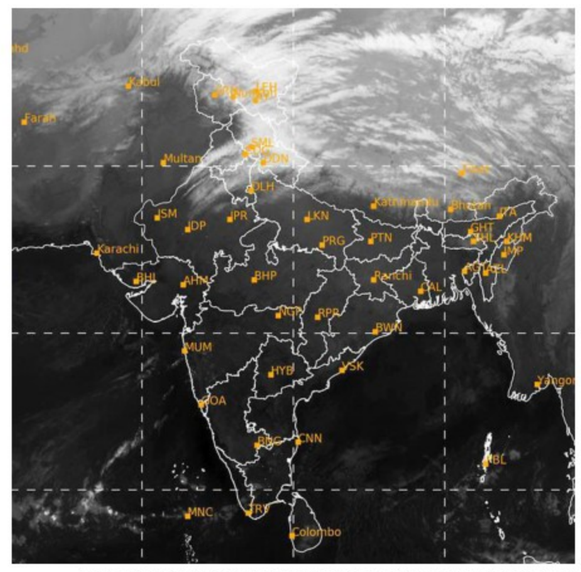
A little over 4.8 lakh applications have so far been filed for fresh enrolment in electoral roll after the EC published the draft roll, according to an update issued by the office of CEO (Kerala) on Saturday.

The KPCC delegation informed Mr. Kelkar that in the current state of SIR, a large number of eligible voters in Kerala could face expulsion from the electoral roll, Mr. Kuzhalnadan said.

The Congress leaders also pointed out that summoning voters for hearings was unfair.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.15 HRS)

Forecast for Sunday: Cold day conditions likely at isolated places over east Uttar Pradesh. Dense/very dense fog likely at isolated places over Jammu & Kashmir, Ladakh, Gilgit-Baltistan, Muzaffarabad, Punjab, Haryana, Chandigarh, Delhi, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, West Bengal and Sikkim

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	28.4	13.4	Kozhikode	—	32.8	24.2
Ahmedabad	—	29.2	14.5	Kurnool	—	32.5	18.4
Aizawl	—	27.0	10.2	Lucknow	—	20.9	4.4
Allahabad	—	23.4	5.2	Madurai	—	32.0	19.6
Bengaluru	—	28.1	15.6	Mangaluru	—	33.3	23.0
Bhopal	—	27.7	7.4	Mumbai	—	30.0	19.2
Bhubaneswar	—	29.2	10.7	Mysuru	—	29.4	15.0
Chandigarh	—	22.0	6.0	New Delhi	—	24.6	4.4
Chennai	—	30.5	21.7	Patna	—	22.1	10.8
Coimbatore	—	30.0	20.0	Port Blair	—	30.3	23.1
Dehradun	—	20.0	7.8	Puducherry	—	30.2	20.3
Gangtok	—	18.5	6.8	Pune	—	32.8	17.4
Goa	—	32.5	21.6	Raipur	—	30.7	12.5
Guwahati	—	26.9	13.2	Ranchi	—	23.7	7.0
Hubballi	—	31.0	14.0	Shillong	—	17.7	7.4
Hyderabad	—	32.0	14.2	Shimla	—	17.0	6.0
Imphal	—	25.0	5.7	Srinagar	—	11.2	-3.2
Jaipur	—	26.5	10.4	Thiruvananthapuram	—	34.6	22.9
Kochi	—	31.2	24.4	Tiruchi	—	29.4	20.2
Kohima	—	16.0	6.0	Vijayawada	—	30.4	19.2
Kolkata	—	25.4	13.6	Visakhapatnam	—	28.2	18.1

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	.97	105	.46	...147	...159	
Bengaluru	...4	..20	.38	...161	...161	
Chennai	...7	9	.52	...156	...143	
Delhi	...5	143	104	...459	...446	
Hyderabad	...8	..14	.43	...104	...122	
Kolkata	...8	137	.59	...251	...172	
Lucknow	...6	..41	.58	...359	...248	
Mumbai	...1	1	.13	...145	...164	
Pune	..—	..56	.96	...208	...181	
Visakhapatnam	.41	118	.24	...210	...187	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Delhi recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 400 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Shillong, Meghalaya recorded a healthy AQI score of 13

Air Quality Code: Poor | Moderate | Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

Bheemanna Khandre: A multifaceted personality

Kumar Buradikatti
KALABURAGI

Bheemanna Khandre, who passed away on Friday, was among the senior-most public figures to emerge from the Kalyana Karnataka region, with a political and social career that extended from the freedom movement era into the 21st century.

Bheemanna Khandre

Born on January 8, 1923, at Gorta (B) village in Basavakalyan taluk of Bidar district, he belonged to a generation that witnessed - and actively shaped - the transition from princely rule to democratic governance in the region.

Educated in Bhalki, Bidar and Hyderabad, Khandre secured a law degree from Osmania University. He practised as an advocate, particularly in Bhalki and surrounding areas. His early public life was marked by participation in the freedom struggle and the Hyderabad-Karnataka Liberation Movement, during which he was imprisoned.

Unification movement

Khandre played an important role in the Karnataka Ekikarana (State unification) movement, especially in campaigns to ensure that Kannada-speaking districts of the erstwhile Hyderabad State, including Bidar, became part of Karnataka. He participated in agitations, delegations and submitting memoranda to national commissions and political leaders during the linguistic reorganisation of States, an issue that shaped regional politics in the 1950s and 1960s. His formal political career began with his election as president of the Bhalki Town Panchayat in 1952. He went on to serve multiple terms in the Karnataka Legislative Assembly and the Legislative Council, and served as Transport Minister in the Congress government, headed by M. Veerappa Moily in the early 1990s.

Institution-building

Beyond electoral politics, Khandre was closely associated with institution-building, especially in the field of education. As chairperson of the Shantivardhak Education Society, he oversaw the expansion of educational institutions, including schools, colleges and technical institutes, in Bidar district and neighbouring areas with a notable emphasis on access for rural students and women.

He was also active in cooperative and agrarian initiatives, supporting sugar cooperatives and farmer-led movements during periods of drought and crop loss in Bidar and adjoining districts. His interventions during major agrarian crises, including campaigns for seed distribution and compensation, earned him sustained engagement with farmers’ organisations across Kalyana Karnataka.

As president of the Akhila Bharata Veerashaiva Lingayat Mahasabha, Khandre focused on organisational consolidation and outreach, presiding over major conferences and programmes that emphasised social reform, community cohesion and opposition to discrimination. He was involved in several initiatives connected with Basava philosophy and Sharana traditions, including support for cultural and religious institutions in Basavakalyan and Kudalasangama.

Widely regarded as a senior public figure with cross-generational influence, Khandre received several honours over the years, including recognition linked to the Karnataka Ekikarana movement and community organisations. Even in advanced age, he remained a point of reference in regional public life, symbolising continuity between the freedom movement generation and contemporary Karnataka politics.

Laid to rest

On Saturday, Khandre was laid to rest with state honours at Bhalki town in Bidar district. Thousands of people, including religious heads, public and leaders cutting across party lines, including Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, paid last respects to the departed leader.

CITY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL BAILHONGAL 591102
Dist: Belagavi State: Karnataka
e-mail:ka.bailhongal.tmc@gmail.com Ph No. 08288-233135
Fax No.08288-237293 Website: http://www.bailhongalatown.gov.in
Sl.No: CMC/BLH/DULT/TP/2025-26/880 Date: 17-01-2026

E-Procurement Tender Notification

The Municipal Commissioner, City Municipal Council, Bailhongal invites tenders a total of 02 works under the scheme of DULT-2025-26 Min Rs.26.97 lakhs up to a Max Rs.185.11 lakhs Item wise tenders are invited in KW-4&2 Model. Eligible registered Contractors can participate in the tender though public work department license holder. Further Details may be obtained from the technical branch of this office.

For further details visit online Website: http://www.bailhongalatown.mrc.gov.in & https://kppp.karnataka. gov.in The details of the time table of tenders are as follows Tender Form Downloading Date:19-01-2026, Tender Pre-Bid Meeting On Dated: 30-01-2026 11.00AM, Last Date for Submission of Tender 04-02-2026 upto 04.30 pm, Opening Date of Technical bid 06-02-2026 upto 11.00 am and Opening Date of Financial bid 09-02-2026 upto 11.00 am in the office of Town Municipal Council, Bailhongal.

Sd/-Municipal Commissioner, City Municipal Council, Bailhongal — **Sd/-Administrator, City Municipal Council, Bailhongal**

DIPR/BGM/RO-NO-1654/KSMCA/2025-26

KARNATAKA STATE POLICE HOUSING AND INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LTD.
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
#59, Richmond Road (Gen K.S. Thimmaiah Road),
Bengaluru-25. Ph: 080-25584102 / 25594893
Email: eecontractksphc@gmail.com Website: www.ksphc.org

No: EE/KSPH&IDCL/CNT/Tender/07/2025-26/362 Date: 17.01.2026

SHORT TERM NOTICE INVITING TENDER

KSPH & IDCL invites online tender as per KTPP 2000 Act & as per Standard Tender Document through KPPP **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** for the below work.

01 Construction of (i) Indian Reserve Battalion at KGF, Kolar Dist. and (ii) Indian Reserve Battallion at Avathi, Bengaluru Rural Dist.

Interested eligible contractors may participate in the tendering process. The details such as Tender fee, EMD, Tender documents etc., are available on KPPP from **19.01.2026 onwards.**

“KSPH & IDCL reserves the right to accept or reject any or all Bids without assigning any reasons.”

Note: Henceforth any changes / modifications in the Tender will be updated only on KPPP.

DIPR/CP/YC/5091/2025-26 **Sd/- Executive Engineer - Contracts**

CITY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL HOSAPETE
No:7038/CMC/HPT//Tender/2025-26Dated: 14.01.2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION (IFT) E-PROCUREMENT

2025-26th Municipal Fund Tenders are invited for the work mentioned below as per KTPP act 2000 in two cover system are invited from the Contractors/Firms registered in KPWD as mentioned below. in e-procurement the contractors / firms will have to upload all information, documents and rates etc., www.eproc.karnataka.govt.in 1) Tender Last Date: 28.01.2026. TIME :4.00 PM. 2) Opening for Technical Bid will be on Date: 29.1.2026TIME: 4.30 PM. 4) OPENING PLACE OF TENDER: CMC HOSAPETE.

1)**DMA/2025-26/SE70382)Name of the Work : PROVIDING OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE OF STAGE 2 HEAD WORKS RISING MAIN, WTP RISING MAIN & BULK WATER SUPPLY SYSTEM SCHEME TO BALANCING OHTS St Joseph Tank, AC office Tank ,NC colony Tank ,Parvathi nagra Tank, Vinayak nagar GSLR , Patel High school Tank ,Sirsinkallu GSLR , Kariganur Tank, Sanklapura Tank , Kotreshappa Layout Tank,SidlingappaChouki Tank, Anantashayanagudi Tank ,Chapparadahalli Tank ,Kondanayakanahalli Tank and Kondanayakanahalli Tank Near School IN HOSPET CITY 3) Estimated Cost Rs in (Lakh) 97.50**EMD Rs.**195000.00**/- any other information required can be obtained from the office of the CMC Hosapete during the working hours

Sd/-Assistant Executive Engineer, CMC Hosapete **Sd/-Municipal Commissioner CMC Hosapete.**
DIPR/Vijayanagar/2025-26/KSMCA/RO No/470

An autonomous Institute under Government of Karnataka
K.H.PATIL INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES, GADAG
Formerly called as Gadag Institute of Medical Sciences, GadagMulagunda Road, Mallasamudra Gadag - 582103
Ph No. 08372-200601 E-mail Id: gimsgadag@gmail.com
Website : www. gimsgadag.karnataka gov.in
No: KHPIMS/Tender/Drugs/2025-26 /02 Date : 16.01.2026

E-TENDER NOTIFICATION

Call of Tablets Tenders, to K H Patil Institute of Medical Sciences, Teaching Hospital Gadag. Tender has been floated in E-Portal DME/2025-26/IND1990 (https://karnataka.gov.in) Interested Institutions, Manufacturers and suppliers can visit above website from **19.01.2026** to **24.02.2026** by evening 4:00 PM, If any queries contact Supply section in the time of Govt Working Days.

Sd/- Assistant Administrative Officer. K H Patil Institute of Medical Sciences, Gadag
DIPR/Gadag/KSMCA/540/2025-26

BENGALURU SOUTH CITY CORPORATION
Office of the Executive Engineer (QA/QC) Division, BSCC, First Floor, Commercial Complex, 9th Cross Road, 9th Main Road, Jayanagar 2nd Block, Bengaluru-11.
No. EE(QA/QC)/Z-1/BSCC/TEND/03/25-26 Date: 17.01.2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION

Two Cover System (Only through GoK KPP Portal)

The Executive Engineer, Quality Assurance / Quality Control Division, BSCC, Bengaluru on behalf the Commissioner, BSCC invites Request for Proposal from interested Persons / Firms those who have similar type of work for Consultancy Services for Project Management including Supervision, Quality Control (PMC)" for the below works.

Sl.No.	Name of the Work
1	Providing PMC Services including Supervision, Quality control for Improvements to existing asphalted road by resurfacing with proper camber, shoulder formation, side drain, improvement and road safety measures to selected arterial, sub-arterial and other important roads in Hemmigepura Division, Bengaluru South City Corporation under GoK Capital Support for Special Infrastructure Projects (CSSIP) (Comprising of 2 works in GO No: UDD 475 MNY 2025 Dated: 14.11.2025 BSCC Annexure-5 Sl.No. 14 and 15) Package No. CSSIP-HP-01. Project Cost : **Rs. 1300.00 lakhs.** EMD: **Rs. 48,750/-.**

Period of completion : **6 months.**

Calendar of Events: **(1)** Tender documents may be downloaded from KPP Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in from 20.01.2026. (2)** Date of Pre-bid meeting : **27.01.2026 at 11.30 am in the Office of the Executive Engineer (QA/QC), BSCC, Fourth Floor, Jayanagar Commercial complex, 30th cross road, 9th Main road, Jayanagar 4th Block, Bengaluru. (3)** Last date & time for receipt of tenders : **03.02.2026 upto 4.00 pm**. **(4)** Date of opening of technical bid : **04.02.2026 at 4.30 pm. (5)** Validity of tender : **90 days from last date of receipts of tender.** Further details may be obtained from the above office during office hours or from KPP Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/- Executive Engineer (QA/QC) Zone-1, BSCC

Government of karnataka
Agricultural Produce Market Committee, Bhadravathi
Tender Notice No.: APMC/Bh/Development/946/2025-26
Date: 13.01.2026

Brief Tender Notice (Through K.P.P.P. Portal of GoK)

Tender is invited through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal as per Standard Tender Document – KW – 3, (Two Cover System) as per Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement (Amendment) Act 2016 Rules and Government Order No.: FD/876/EXP – 12/2017-18 Bengaluru Dt.: 10.10.2017. Eligible Tenderers can participate in the Tender through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in

1. Last date for submission of filled Tender through website 31.01.2026 At 17.30 Hrs. **2.** Tender Pre-bid meeting 22.01.2026 At 11.00 Hrs. **3.** Date of opening Technical Bid in website 02.02.2026 At 11.00 Hrs. **4.** Date of opening Financial Bid in website After approval of Technical Bid **5.** Place of opening Technical Bid & Financial Bid: Agricultural Produce Market Committee, Bhadravathi

Sl. No.1. Name of Work: Providing RCC Drain, Deck slab & Interlock for 1st Cross Road & 3rd Cross Road at Main Market Yard, APMC under Annual Action Plan 2025-26 **Tender Type:** Itemwar Tender (KW-3) **Amount Put to Tender (in Rs.):** Rs.67,42,453=00 Excluding GST **E.M.D. 2% (in Rs.):** Rs.1,34,900/- **Time Period for Completion (Excluding Rainy Season):** 4 Months**Eligibility of Contractor:** Eligible KW-3 Civil Contractor registered with PWD **Cost of Tender Form:** As per e-Governance

Related uploading of the Tender e-portal Helpline 080-46010000 or 080-68948777 can be contacted. For further details visit website http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in and contact Secretary, A.P.M.C., Bhadravathi / Asst. Executive Engineer, No. 3, Sub Division, M.D.S., Shivamogga at this Office.

Sd/- Secretary APMC, Bhadravathi — **Sd/- Administrative Officer, APMC, Bhadravathi**
DIPR/smg/ksmca/25-26/141/01/1651

KERALA MARITIME BOARD
(A statutory Board of Govt. of Kerala)
HO TC XXII/1666 (4&5)
1st Floor, Mulamoottil Building Pipinmoodu,
Sasthamangalam, PIN: 695010

TENDER NOTICE

RFP for Integrated Development of Coastal Assets at Thalassery, Kannur, Kerala on PPP mode

The Kerala Maritime Board (KMB) invites a tender for **the Integrated Development of Coastal Assets at Thalassery, Kannur, Kerala on PPP mode** [Etender Number: **12/2025-2026/HOKMB-TVM/642/2025**] in Public Private Partnership (PPP) mode.

The detailed tender document can be downloaded from Government of Kerala’s e-procurement portal **(www.etenders.kerala.gov.in).**

Proposals must be submitted on or before **03-03-2026, 06.55 PM**.

For further information contact us on **0471-2910040/ 9544410029** or email us to **kmb.kerala@gmail.com**.
For updates visit: **www.kmb.kerala.gov.in**
(D3/56/2026/I&PRD)

VIJAYANAGARA SRI KRISHNADEVARAYA UNIVERSITY, BALLARI
Jnanasagara Campus, Vinayakanagara , Cantonment, Ballari-583105,
NO. VSKUB/Central Library/2025-26/129
Date:13.01.2026

Brief Notification

Vijayanagara Sri Krishnadevaraya University, Jnana Sagara Campus, Ballari Central Library invites **Book Exhibition** from Publishers and Authorized Agents/Distributor of Publishers for Supply of Reference books (Print) to the Central Library cost Rs. Approximate 50 lacks (including GST) for the academic year 2025-26. The detail notification regarding the subject enquiry on the website vskub.ac.in The other details can be collected from the undersigned.

Sd/- Registrar, Vijayanagara Sri Krishnadevaraya University Ballari-583105.
DIPR/Ballari/910/KSMCA/2025-26

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Govt. of Karnataka
Department of AYUSH
Government Homeopathy Medical College & Hospital
Dr. Siddhaiah Puranik Road, Basaveshwarnagar, Bangalore-560079
Tender number: GHMC&H/11/Sup/2025-26 Date:14/01/2026

E-Tender Notification (Through kpp portal only)

Government Homeopathy Medical College & Hospital invites tenders for the purchase of Homeopathy Medicines for treatment of patients.

TENDER SCHEDULE

E-Tender Notification Number:		GHMC&H/11/Sup/ 2025-26 Date:13/01/2026
Availability of tenders in e-portal	:	14.01.2026
Last Date for uploading tender in e-portal	:	29.01.2026
Last date for online queries	:	21.01.2026
Tender opening date	:	31.01.2026
Tender opening venue: **Government Homeopathy Medical College & Hospital, Dr. Siddhaiah Puranik Road, Basaveshwarnagar, Bangalore-560079.**		
Temporary date of opening financial bid	:	03.02.2026

The e-Tender Rules/Regulations can be downloaded from the website **https://kppp.karntaka.gov.in** from **14.01.2026.**

Sd/- Principal / Tender inviting Authority
DIPR/CP/RO5098/AAPL/2025-26

From Page One

Iran's leader brands Trump a 'criminal'

"We do consider the U.S. President a criminal, because of casualties and damages, because of accusations against the Iranian nation," he said. The Supreme Leader blamed demonstrators for causing thousands of deaths and described the protesters as "foot soldiers" of the U.S. and said they had destroyed mosques and educational centres. "Through hurting people, they killed several thousand of them," he said.

His comments come a day after Mr. Trump sounded a conciliatory tone, saying that "Iran cancelled the hanging of over 800 people," and adding that "I greatly respect the fact that they cancelled." He did not clarify who he spoke to in Iran to confirm the state of any planned executions. His comments were a sign he may be backing away from a military strike.

In his speech, Mr. Khamenei said rioters were armed with live ammunition that was imported from abroad, without naming any countries.

"We do not plan, we do not take the country toward war. But we do not release domestic offenders, worse than domestic offenders, there are international offenders. We do not let them alone either," he said, and urged officials to pursue the cases.

The crackdown has left at least 3,090 people dead, including 2,885 protesters, according to the U.S.-based Human Rights Activists News Agency, exceeding that of any other round of protest or unrest in Iran in decades.

Lit for Life 2026 begins with call for free speech

"*The Hindu* Lit for Life affirms the enduring relevance of books in public life. It creates a shared space where ideas are tested in conversation rather than consumed in isolation by listening to one another across differences of language, belief and experience, we learn to recognise not positions or identities, but people, fellow human beings whose lives are worthy of attention and care," Mr. Chandrachud added.

Outlining the agenda of the two-day festival, Ms. Lakshman said: "We are very glad too that this festival provides the opportunities for festival goers to meet their favorite authors and engage with them directly. We are also organising book signings here, today and tomorrow, and one of the most joyful sights for us is to see how many people buy books. We are hoping to add a mini children's festival next year to encourage reading and thinking in young minds."

"As an integral part of an independent media house, we carry with us the honest and fearless traditions of *The Hindu*... of adherence to democratic values, social inclusiveness, justice, truth and a firm commitment to the freedom of expression, which is the cornerstone of this festival," she added.

Mr. Grayling, known for his works such as *The Meaning of Things*, *The Goodbook* and *The God Argument*, noted that the "idea of a society staying alive, of keeping fresh, of always rethinking its assumptions, is so key to the whole debate that comes off printed page". "I have been attending literary festivals for more than 25 years, and in the last 15 years or so, I have noticed the proliferation of festivals all around the world, and some of the leading festivals in the United Kingdom, Australia, here in India, have become bigger and bigger as years have passed by, marking the fact that the conversation about books and what books contain, about the stories that we live by and tell one another, and the ideas that leap off the page are a great inspiration for the conversation that any society has to have with itself," Mr. Grayling said.

Suresh Nambath, Editor, *The Hindu*, said, "The lit in Lit for Life points to both literature and light, to the enlightenment that words bring to the reader, the exchange of ideas, the path of progress, the way out of darkness and fear, and towards knowledge and freedom."

L.V. Navaneeth, Chief Executive Officer, The Hindu Group, said, "*The Hindu* Lit for Life features almost 50 sessions with over 100 speakers spread over these three venues and eight workshops at three distinct spaces."

Many Indians return from Iran by commercial flights

As tensions escalate in Iran amid protests and government crackdowns, Indian nationals are urged to prioritise their safety and return home, with the Indian Embassy offering support

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

An Indian citizen hugs a relative after arriving at the airport on a commercial flight from Tehran in New Delhi on Saturday. REUTERS

Several Indians, including students, have arrived in New Delhi by commercial flights from Iran amid widespread protests in the Islamic nation and Tehran's crackdown that has so far killed more than 2,500 people.

The flights arrived at the Delhi airport late on Friday night. It was not immediately known how many Indians had arrived by these commercial flights.

Upon arriving at the airport, Ali Naqui, who was a part of a group of 12 or 13 travellers, was asked if they faced any difficulty in Iran. "We didn't face any problem," he replied.

"We have returned from Tehran. Earlier, we were in Iraq, then we travelled to Iran. After an eight-day stay there, we have returned to India," he said.

A young woman, who is studying at a medical college in Shiraz, said, "The Internet was not working. So, we didn't exactly know what was happening around the country."

The student said the situation in the city she was in was "fine". "We have come back on our own in a commercial flight, and not on the arrangement of the Indian government."

Late on Friday night, many people arrived at the airport to receive their relatives arriving from Iran. While many seemed to be gripped by a sense of anxiety, they said that the Indian Embassy in Tehran has been reassuring all Indian nationals there, through whatever means of communication available.

Abbas Qazmi, whose mother and aunt returned from Iran, said, "There was definitely some anxiety because it was a global issue, and when the Internet was shut, we were quite worried."

"But as soon as communication resumed, we realised that things were under control. That gave us assurance that everything was fine. We had registered with the embassy as soon as the advisory was issued and were waiting for further instructions. My mother's flight was already scheduled, so things went smoothly, and we are happy," he said.

External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal, in his weekly media briefing on Friday, said, "At present, there are approximately 9,000 of our nationals living in Iran. Most of them are our students."

In addition to this, there are sailors, pilgrims, and some people who are associated with business and reside there, he said, adding that in view of the recent developments and activities taking place there, "we have issued two to three advisories".

"In these advisories, we have stated that our citizens should not travel to Iran at this time. And the Indian nationals who are currently residing there have been advised that, through whatever means available to leave the country at present, commercial flights are still operating, and that option is also available; they should make use of those and leave," he said.

Apart from this, New Delhi is "closely monitoring the situation and developments there", Mr. Jaiswal had said.

Iran has been rocked by a wave of protests in the past several weeks over inflation and currency devaluation. The protests began late last month in Tehran after the Iranian currency, the Rial, plunged to record lows. The protests have since spread to all 31 provinces, evolving from an agitation against economic woes to a demand for political change.

People block the the road, bringing traffic to a standstill in Murshidabad on Saturday. ANI VIDEO GRAB

Murshidabad sees fresh unrest; police baton-charge mob

Shiv Sahay Singh
KOLKATA

Fresh unrest was reported at Beldanga in Murshidabad district of West Bengal on Saturday as local people blocked National Highway 12. Hundreds of local people gathered on the highway at Barua More in Beldanga, bringing traffic to a standstill and triggering long queues of stranded vehicles.

Protesters also damaged a railway gate and attempted to disrupt train services along the Sealdah-Lalgola railway section of Eastern Railway. A State transport corporation bus was vandalised by the mob and some passengers were injured.

"There were some blockades where we had to resort to baton-charge and have cleared everything. Situation is normal, shops are open," Kumar Sunny Raj, Superintendent of Police, Murshidabad, told presspersons. The SP said the situation has been brought under control in half an hour and about 30 persons were picked up for their role in the violence from the spot.

Violence had erupted in Beldanga on Friday following the death of 36-year-old Alauddin Sheikh, a migrant worker from the area who was killed in Jharkhand. The situation returned to normal around five hours after the Murshidabad District Magistrate and senior officials tried to pacify the agitated mob.

A woman journalist of a local television news channel sustained injuries in the violence on Friday. The SP said four persons were arrested for the attack and the police had registered a *suo motu* case.

Four Maoists killed in Chhattisgarh

Shubhomoy Sikdar
RAIPUR

At least four Maoists, including senior commander Dilip Bedja, were killed by security forces in Chhattisgarh's Bijapur on Saturday, said the police.

Bijapur Superintendent of Police Jitendra Yadav said that the ongoing operation was launched after the police received a tip-off about Bedja, a Divisional Commander of the National Park Area Committee of Maoists, and other armed cadres in the forested and hilly areas of the northwestern region of Bijapur district.

A joint team of District Reserve Guards and Special Task Force of the State Police and Commando Battalion for Resolute Action [a specialised, elite unit of India's Central Reserve Police Force] is conducting the ongoing operation, he added. Intermittent firing has been ongoing between the joint team and the Maoists since Saturday morning.

Biren Singh, Shah discuss conducive situation for forming Manipur govt.

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

Union Home Minister Amit Shah during a meeting with the then Manipur Chief Minister N. Biren Singh in New Delhi in 2023. PTI

Former Manipur Chief Minister N. Biren Singh met Union Home Minister Amit Shah in Delhi late on Friday, where the talks centred on establishing a "conducive environment" and "ironing out complexities" before the popular government could be restored in the northeastern State, sources close to the former Chief Minister said.

A government official said that the meeting was about "routine matters", and this was the second such meeting in a month.

Mr. Singh last met the Home Minister at the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) office in Delhi when the working party president Nitin Nabin was to assume charge on December 15, the official said.

The meeting between the two started at 10 p.m. on Friday (January 16, 2026) and lasted an hour. There was no official statement from the Union Home Ministry regarding the meeting.

"Political issues pertaining to the State were discussed. While no specific timeline was given for restoration of an elected government, matters related to solving internal differences were discussed," said the source.

The meeting assumes significance amid indications that the Centre is inclined to the formation of a popular government in Manipur before February 13. Manipur was placed under President's Rule on February 13, 2025, and the Assembly was placed under suspended animation following Mr. Singh's resignation. The next elections are due in February-March 2027.

Manipur had been affected by ethnic violence between the Meitei and the Kuki-Zo people since May 3, 2023, which has so far claimed around 250 lives and displaced more than 60,000 people.

Government officials are separately holding meetings with members of the Kuki-Zo community.

On January 14, A.K Mishra, Adviser, NorthEast, Home Ministry, met the chairman of the Kuki-Zo Council (KZC), a conglomerate of the tribal group, seeking its cooperation in the restoration of the popular government. KZC has demanded the extension of President's Rule, adding that the Kuki-Zo legislators may join the government at their own risk.

On January 12, the Kuki-Zo tribal groups, including the two insurgent groups in political talks with the Ministry, said they had resolved to join the popular government in Manipur, provided the Union and the State governments give a written commitment to support the negotiated political settlement for a Union Territory with legislature under the Constitution.

There are 10 Kuki-Zo MLAs in Manipur, and the leaders are not in favour of excluding them from the next government formation, the official said.

'Congress spreading lies about Kashi development'

The Hindu Bureau
LUCKNOW

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Saturday accused the Congress of spreading "false propaganda" to defame Kashi and obstruct its comprehensive development through lies and misinformation. He was responding to allegations regarding the demolition of temples at Manikarnika Ghat in Varanasi. Addressing a press conference, he said images of old and damaged idols were being posted on social media to deliberately create a negative narrative amid the redevelopment of Manikarnika Ghat.

"It was necessary for me to come here today so that the correct facts could be placed before the public. Broken remnants of idols were brought from workshops where statues are made and circulated on social media to spread white lies that temples were being demolished," he said.

Paracetamol use in pregnancy not linked to autism: study

Ramya Kannan
CHENNAI

A comprehensive review of studies done across the world, published in *The Lancet Obstetrics, Gynaecology and Women's Health* on Friday, has demolished the argument that paracetamol exposure among pregnant women is linked with autism among infants. In fact, it cautions that avoiding appropriate paracetamol use during pregnancy could expose the women and babies to actual harm.

It may be remembered that in September 2025, U.S. President Donald Trump himself advised pregnant women to limit the use of paracetamol during pregnancy, saying it was linked to autism in infants. Referring to the drug's brand name in America, Mr. Trump said, "Don't take Tylenol ... Tylenol is not good." The government cited a review linking acetaminophen use in pregnancy to neurodevelopmental outcomes.

The Lancet's systematic review and meta-analysis, "Prenatal paracetamol exposure and child neurodevelopment", published in the peer-reviewed journal by Francesco D'Antonio et al, has established beyond doubt that there is absolutely no evidence available to show a direct link between prenatal use of paracetamol and autism in the babies born.

Paracetamol remains one of the most widely used medicines in pregnancy. GETTY IMAGES

The authors clarified that, "Paracetamol, or acetaminophen, is the most commonly used analgesic and antipyretic during pregnancy, recommended globally as a first-line option for pain relief and fever reduction. Its safety profile is generally more favourable than that of non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs and opioids, making it the preferred choice in obstetric care."

The article reviewed 43 existing clinical studies and concluded that, "Current evidence does not indicate a clinically important increase in the likelihood of autism spectrum disorder, ADHD, or intellectual disability in children of pregnant individuals who use paracetamol as directed, supporting existing recommendations on its safety." Further, it said that this absence of association persisted even when considering all studies with more than five years of follow-up.

They wrote, "Our results have clear clinical relevance. Paracetamol remains one of the most widely used medicines in pregnancy, commonly taken for pain or fever, and is included on the WHO List of Essential Medicines. In many settings, it is the only safe and accessible option for treating fever and pain. Avoidance of paracetamol based on inconclusive evidence could expose pregnant women and their babies to known risks associated with untreated fever or severe pain. Untreated maternal fever, in particular, has been linked to miscarriage, congenital anomalies, preterm birth, and differences in neurodevelopment. For this reason, discouraging the appropriate use of paracetamol has the potential to cause greater harm than the drug itself."

The review thus reinforced the guidance of major professional and regulatory bodies, including the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists, and the European Medicines Agency, which continue to recommend paracetamol as the first-line analgesic and antipyretic in pregnancy.

Rashtrapati Bhavan to be closed for visits for 9 days

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Rashtrapati Bhavan (Circuit 1) will remain closed to the public from January 21 to January 29 in view of the upcoming Republic Day Parade and the Beating the Retreat ceremony, a statement issued on Saturday said. Circuit 1 offers a tour of Rashtrapati Bhavan's main building.

APPEAL

Baby Mahiya Jannath, Manipal Hospitals IP No.MH017785553, 2 years Daughter of Mr. Mamin Ali is Diagnosed to Tetralogy of Fallot, Confluent Branch PAs. She requires to undergo early surgical ICR operation at the earliest. The Estimated cost of the surgery is Rs.4,00,000/-

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INBRIEF

DGCA slaps ₹22.2 cr. penalty on IndiGo for disruptions

Aviation safety regulator Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) on Saturday imposed a penalty of ₹22.2 crore on IndiGo airline for flight disruptions in December 2025, citing the overstretching of flight crew as the key factor behind the airline's operational meltdown. It has also issued a warning to CEO Pieter Elbers and COO Isidre Porqueras who were served a showcause notice and has ordered the removal of Senior Vice President, Operational Control Centre, Jason Herter from his current position "for failure in systemic planning and timely implementation" of revised duty and rest norms for pilots which kicked in from November 1.

Mamata is trying to obstruct SIR through violence, says BJP

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Saturday held the Trinamool Congress responsible for the suicide of a booth-level officer (BLO), and incidents of violence during the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in West Bengal. The BJP held multiple press conferences across 10 States on issues related to developments in West Bengal. BJP MP and spokesperson Sambit Patra accused West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee and the Trinamool Congress government of "openly undermining democracy and the Constitution". "The situation has become so grave that even election officials are not safe there," he alleged.

Punjab CM meets Amit Shah, opposes Seeds Bill, 2025

Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann met with Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Saturday, raising concerns over the proposed Seeds Bill 2025, which is expected to be introduced in Parliament during the upcoming Budget Session. Mr. Mann said he had raised several issues of the State, including Punjab's objections to the proposed Seeds Bill 2025, the unresolved Sutlej Yamuna Link dispute (SYL), slow movement of foodgrains by the Food Corporation of India (FCI), non payment of Rural Development Fund (RDF), and the dilution of Punjab's role in Union Territory - Chandigarh's administration, seeking time-bound resolution of these matters.

SIT expedites investigation into death of NEET aspirant

The Bihar Police on Saturday sped up the investigation into the death of a National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (NEET) aspirant following the formation of a special investigation team (SIT) by the State government on Friday, after the post-mortem report said sexual violence cannot be ruled out in the case. The 18-year-old aspirant and a resident of Jehanabad was found unconscious in her hostel room under the Chitragupta Nagar police station area in Patna earlier this month and died during treatment at a private hospital on January 11. Earlier, the police had labelled the death as a suicide and ruled out the possibility of sexual violence.

SUDOKU

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Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

3	4	8	9	2	1	6	5	7
2	6	1	3	7	5	4	9	8
9	5	7	8	6	4	2	3	1
7	9	6	5	8	2	3	1	4
8	3	5	1	4	6	9	7	2
4	1	2	7	9	3	8	6	5
5	8	4	6	1	9	7	2	3
6	7	3	2	5	8	1	4	9
1	2	9	4	3	7	5	8	6

Infiltration changing West Bengal's demography: PM

The PM promises refugees protection under CAA, especially those from the Namasudras communities and Matua; he accuses Trinamool of perpetuating illegal immigration, sparking riots

Shiv Sahay Singh
KOLKATA

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday claimed that large-scale illegal migration has altered the demography of West Bengal, even as he assured refugees who have taken shelter in India due to religious persecution in neighbouring countries that they have nothing to worry about.

Addressing a public meeting in Malda district, Mr. Modi said that illegal migration was being perpetuated by the "patronage and syndicate" of the Trinamool Congress, and was provoking riots in Malda and Murshidabad.

"Differences are emerging in language and dialect. Due to the increasing population of infiltrators, riots have started occurring in many areas of West Bengal, including Malda and Murshidabad," the Prime Minister said. Both districts have a significant minority population, and have witnessed communal flare-ups over the past few years. Noting that developed and prosperous countries which have no shortage of money are removing infiltrators from within their borders, Mr. Modi emphasised the necessity of removing infiltrators from West Bengal.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi being felicitated during a public meeting in Malda on Saturday. ANI

'No reason to fear'

Once the BJP comes to power in the State, he added, the government would take "big action" to crack down on infiltrators and stop illegal migration.

At the same time, the Prime Minister also reassured refugees, particularly those from the Matua and Namasudras communities, that they have been provided protection under the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA), 2019. "They have no reason to fear. The Constitution has provided them rights to stay in India. Modi has provided them full protection under the CAA," he said.

With State elections scheduled in the next few months, the BJP leadership, including Mr. Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah, have been raising the issue of illegal infiltration.

Coining a new slogan, '*Paltano Dorkaar, Chai BJP Sorkaar* (Need change, want BJP government)", the Prime Minister said that the BJP will restore the old glory of West Bengal when it comes to power in the State. He said that the Trinamool Congress was 'heartless', as its leaders were siphoning off funds meant for the poor people of West Bengal. Noting that the BJP has formed governments in the neighbouring States to the east and northeast, the Prime Minister said it was now the turn of "West Bengal to bless the vision of development".

The Prime Minister is on a two day visit to West Bengal and on Sunday, he will address a public meeting at Singur in Hooghly district.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi with students aboard a Vande Bharat sleeper train flagged off by him in Malda on Saturday. ANI

Vande Bharat sleeper launched; to run from Kolkata to Guwahati

Shrabana Chatterjee
KOLKATA

The train will run between Howrah and Kamakhya six days a week, departing Howrah at 6.20 p.m.

On a two-day visit to West Bengal, Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched India's first overnight sleeper Vande Bharat train connecting Kolkata and Guwahati. The inauguration ceremony was held in Malda on Saturday.

Four new trains from various parts of West Bengal to other States were also virtually launched by the Prime Minister.

"The first sleeper Vande Bharat train is now joining the land of Ma Kali with the land of Ma Kamakhya," Mr. Modi said after flagging off the new train, adding the new trains would provide ease of travel and trade.

The Vande Bharat sleeper train will run between Howrah and Kamakhya stations six days a week in both the up and down directions, departing Howrah at 6.20 p.m., and Kamakhya at 6.15 p.m., making the journey in about 14 hours.

The other trains launched were four Amrit Bharat Express services: New Jalpaiguri to Nagercoil and Tiruchirappalli and Alipurduar to Sir M. Visvesvaraya Terminal, Bengaluru and Mumbai (Panvel).

The new trains come as a push towards setting the agenda for poll-bound West Bengal.

'Self-sufficient railways'

"Foreign nationals are now making videos of our trains and telling people how our rail system has been revolutionised. This new Vande Bharat train is made in India," Mr. Modi said in his address. Along with being modernised, the Indian Railways is becoming self-sufficient, he said, adding there are 150 Vande Bharat trains to date in India.

Union Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw was present.

Local cuisine from Bengal and Assam would be available on the sleeper Vande Bharat train, Mr. Vaishnaw said.

The Mayfair Spring Valley Resort, Guwahati, has partnered with the Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation as the official caterer for the sleeper train.

Senior Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leaders, including Sukanta Majumdar, MP; Leader of the Opposition in the Assembly Suvendu Adhikari; and the party's State president Samik Bhattacharya, were present at the event, as was Governor C.V. Ananda Bose.

New rail projects

At the same event, the Prime Minister laid the foundation stone for various road and railway projects estimated at ₹3,250 crore. He launched projects for a new rail line between Balurghat and Hili; next generation freight maintenance facilities at New Jalpaiguri; upgrade of the Siliguri Loco Shed; and modernisation of the Vande Bharat train maintenance facilities in Jalpaiguri district. He also laid the foundation stone for the rehabilitation and four-laning of the Dhupguri-Falakata section of National Highway 31D.

Later in the day, the Prime Minister addressed a public meeting of BJP workers and supporters at a ground in Malda.

EC needs to rebuild trust, says Anand Sharma

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Congress leader Anand Sharma on Saturday expressed concern over what he described as a steady erosion in the credibility of the Election Commission (EC), asserting that the constitutional authority must urgently address the issues raised by Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, to restore public trust.

Referring to the continuing debate on electronic voting machines (EVMs), Mr. Sharma said questions relating to possible tampering or misuse remain unresolved. The issues raised by Mr. Gandhi, he added, must be viewed in this broader context. The EC needs to undertake a "course correction" to regain its credibility, he said.

Rahul slams BJP govt. over Indore water crisis, says 'this is the new smart city model'

Mehul Malpani
BHOPAL

the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, on Saturday slammed the Bharatiya Janata Party government over the diarrhoea outbreak in Indore that has claimed several lives, while taking a dig at the Centre's smart city model.

The senior Congress leader visited Indore's Bhagirathpura area, the epicentre of the outbreak, and met the affected residents and families of those who died over the past month.

"It was said that the country would be given smart cities. This is the new model of a smart city. There is no drinking water. People are being intimidated. Families fell ill after drinking the water. This means that clean water is not available in Indore. This is the urban model," Mr. Gandhi said, adding that similar conditions prevailed in several other cities.

Rahul Gandhi

He said that people were still not getting clean water in Bhagirathpura.

Later, Mr. Gandhi wrote on X, "The BJP's double-engine government's new smart city model–poison in the water, poison in the air, poison in the medicine, poison in the land. And if you demand answers, they'll roll in the bulldozer! In this model, somehow, no one is held responsible for the deaths of the poor."

"The government should immediately take accountability for the Indore tragedy caused by their negligence–punish the guilty and ensure prompt, proper treatment and compensation for the victims," he added.

While the official death toll of the tragedy remains at six, an internal panel of doctors formed to verify the death claims has submitted that a total of 23 people died in Bhagirathpura since December 20.

Caste is still the biggest admission form in the country, says Cong. leader

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Rahul says Karnataka and Telangana are in the process of enforcing the law

Marking the 10th death anniversary of University of Hyderabad research scholar Rohith Vemula on Saturday, Congress leader and Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi said the situation faced by Dalit students on campuses had not fundamentally changed and called for a comprehensive anti-discrimination law.

Vemula, a 26-year-old Dalit student, died by suicide on January 17, 2016, following alleged institutional harassment, triggering nationwide protests against caste-based discrimination in institutions of higher education.

In a post on X, Mr. Gandhi said Vemula's life and death continued to raise a fundamental question about equality of opportunity in India.

"Today marks 10 years since Rohith Vemula's passing. But Rohith's question still resonates in our hearts: does everyone in this country have an equal right to dream? Rohith wanted to study, he wanted to write. But this system could not tolerate a Dalit's progress," Mr. Gandhi said.

Referring to what he described as institutionalised casteism, social exclusion and everyday humiliation, Mr. Gandhi said such practices stripped Vemula of dignity and pushed him into isolation.

"And today? Has the reality for Dalit youth changed? The same contempt on campus, the same isolation in hostels, the same feeling of inferiority in classrooms, the same violence – and sometimes, the same death. Because caste is still the biggest admission form in this country," he added.

That was why the Rohit Vemula Act was not just a slogan but a necessity, the Congress leader asserted. He called upon Dalit students to organise and demand the immediate implementation of the proposed legislation.

Call for humane society

Mr. Gandhi said Congress governments in Karnataka and Telangana were in the process of implementing the law at the State level.

Calling for a more just and humane society, he said India must ensure that no Dalit student is forced to sacrifice their life , describing the fight against caste discrimination in higher education as a collective responsibility.

J&K House sees resolution seeking restoration of MBBS course in college

The Hindu Bureau
SRINAGAR/NEW DELHI

A ruling National Conference (NC) legislator has introduced a resolution before the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly seeking a "review of the withdrawal of the Letter of Permission (LoP)" to the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Institute of Medical Excellence (SMVDIME), in Kakryal, Reasi. The withdrawal had resulted in the cancellation of the first batch of MBBS students of the college, with 42 Muslim students securing admission out of 50.

The resolution has been moved by NC legislator Tanvir Sadiq as a Private Member and submitted to the Assembly, which will hold the Budget session from February 2.

"This House therefore urges the Government of India and the National Medical Commission to immediately review and reconsider the withdrawal of the Letter of Permission, conduct a fair and transparent reassessment of the institution, and take all necessary steps to restore the MBBS course at SMVD Institute of Medical Excellence in the larger public interest," reads the resolution.

Tanvir Sadiq

The resolution underlined that the regulatory processes "must be fair, transparent, proportionate and in conformity with principles of natural justice".

Reaction of Congress

The Congress on Saturday accused the BJP-led government of deliberately "undermining and communalising" the education system, citing the withdrawal of permission.

At a press conference in New Delhi, Syed Naseer Hussain, Congress general secretary in charge of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh said, "Admissions to students at the Vaishno Devi Medical College in Jammu-Kashmir were done based on NEET score. The number of Muslim students in the final admission list was higher because the Muslim community has a larger population in that area." He also accused the Centre of "continuously injecting poison" into the education system.

INBRIEF

Musk seeks up to $134 bn from OpenAI, MS in 'wrongful gains'

Elon Musk is seeking up to $134 billion from OpenAI and Microsoft, arguing he deserves the "wrongful gains"that they received from his early support of the artificial-intelligence start-up, according to a court filing on Friday. OpenAI gained between $65.5 billion and $109.4 billion from the billionaire entrepreneur's contributions when he was co-founding OpenAI from 2015, while Microsoft gained between $13.3 billion and $25.1 billion, Mr. Musk said. REUTERS

RIL unit buys Brylcreem, Toni & Guy, Badedas' global rights

Reliance Consumer, the FMCG arm of billionaire Mukesh Ambani-led RIL, acquired global rights of some international brands such as Brylcreem, Toni & Guy and Badedas, to expand its presence in the fast-growing personal care and beauty market. Besides, it has also acquired Matey, a U.K.-based specialist brand, focusing on the children's personal care category, according to an investor's presentation by RIL. PTI

RBL Bank Q3 net surges to ₹214 cr., asset quality better

RBL Bank Ltd. reported third-quarter net profit surged manifold to ₹214 crore compared with ₹33 crore in the year-earlier period. Net Interest Income grew 5% while Net Interest Margin (NIM) stood at 4.63%. Gross NPA ratio as at December 31, 2025 stood at 1.88% compared with 2.32% as at September 30, 2025. Net NPA ratio was 0.55% compared with 0.57% as at September 30, 2025. Provision Coverage Ratio, including technical write-offs, was 93.2%, the bank said.

UCO Bank Q3 net profit increases 16% to ₹739 crore

UCO Bank Ltd. for the third quarter ended December 31, reported a 16% year-on-year rise in net profit to ₹739 crore. Net Interest Income (NII) for the quarter rose 11.27% to ₹2,646 crore. Gross NPAs improved 2.41% as on December 31 against 2.91% a year earlier, while net NPAs improved 0.36% from 0.63% a year earlier.

HDFC Bank Q3 net up 11.5% to ₹18,654 crore

Net interest income climbed 6.4% to ₹32,615 crore while core net interest margin stood at 3.35% on total assets and 3.51% on interest-earning assets

Lalatendu Mishra
MUMBAI

HDFC Bank Ltd. reported a 11.5% year-on-year growth in net profit for the quarter ended 31 December to ₹18,654 crore.

Chief Financial Officer (CFO) Srinivasan Vaidyanathan told over a conference call it would do better next financial year.

Net interest income climbed 6.4% to ₹32,615 crore while core net interest margin stood at 3.35% on total assets and 3.51% on interest-earning assets.

Provisions and contingencies stood at ₹2,838 crore compared with ₹3,154 crore a year earlier.

Gross Non-Performing Assets (GNPA) reduced to ₹35,179 crore from ₹36,019 crore a year earlier.

GNPAs stood at 1.24% of gross advances as on December 31, 2025 (0.97% excluding NPAs in the agricultural segment), as against 1.24% as on September 30, 2025 (0.99% excluding NPAs in the agricultural segment) and 1.42% as on December 31, 2024 (1.19% excluding NPAs in agricultural segment). Net Non-Performing Assets (NNPAs), however, grew to ₹11,982 crore (₹11,588 crore). NNPAs stood at 0.42% of net advances as on December 31.

Coming down: Provisions and contingencies stood at ₹2,838 crore compared with ₹3,154 crore a year earlier. REUTERS

ICICI Bank Q3 net slips on RBI direction

Lalatendu Mishra
MUMBAI

ICICI Bank Ltd., the nation's second largest private sector bank, for Q3FY26 ended 31 December reported a 4% year-on-year (YoY) drop in net profit to ₹11,318 crore due to additional standard asset provisioning of ₹1,283 crore as directed by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

"Following its annual supervisory review, RBI has directed the bank to make a standard asset provision of ₹1,283 crore in respect of a portfolio of agricultural priority sector credit facilities wherein the terms of the facilities were found to be not fully compliant with the regulatory requirements for classification as agricultural priority sector lending (PSL)," Sandeep Batra, ED, said.

"This additional standard asset provision will continue until the loans are repaid or renewed in conformity with the PSL classification guidelines."

The bank's GNPA additions were ₹5,356 crore during Q3.

The bank said it's board unanimously approved the re-appointment of MD & CEO Sandeep Bakhshi for a period of two years with effect from October 4, 2026.

During the quarter the bank's net interest income rose 7.7% to ₹ 21,932 crore. Net interest margin was 4.30% (4.25%). Gross NPA ratio was 1.53% (1.96%) while net NPA ratio stood at 0.37% (0.42%).

Vinfast to unveil 3 new EV models in 2026

Jagriti Chandra
NEW DELHI

Vietnamese electric vehicle maker VinFast plans to introduce three new models in 2026, including a 7-seater multi purpose vehicle and double showroom footprint in India and expand to smaller cities.

The 7-seater electric MPV targets family and commercial use, VinFast's CEO Tapan Kumar Ghosh told the media at an event to mark one year of the firm's presence in India.

The details of the other two cars were not shared but the CEO said those will target different segments.

The company also plans to double showroom footprint by expanding to 75 showrooms from the current 35 and move beyond tier-1 and tier-2 cities to tier -3 and tier-4 markets.

VinFast launched two premium electric SUVs, VF 6 and VF 7, in 2025.

VinFast operates an EV assembly plant in Thoothukudi, Tamil Nadu with an initial capacity of 50,000 vehicles annually, scalable up to 1,50,000 units.

VinFast is also researching the right timing to enter electric buses and electric two-wheelers along with the infrastructure that supports them, according to the CEO.

Parent company, Vin Group, which is a multi-industry group also has ambitions to invest beyond mobility in India and explore opportunities in urban development, healthcare, renewable energy and education.

Yes Bank Q3 net surges 55% to ₹952 cr.

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Yes Bank Ltd. reported net profit for the third quarter ended December jumped 55.4% year-on-year (YoY) to ₹952 crore.

Net Interest Income at ₹2,466 crore grew 10.9% while Net Interest Margin at 2.6% was up 20 bps. The bank saw an improvement in asset quality. The GNPA ratio at 1.5% in Q3FY26 was down 10 bps while NNPA ratio at 0.3% slid 20 bps.

Gross slippages stood at ₹1,050 crore (1.6% of advances) compared with ₹1,248 crore (2% of advances) in the previous quarter.

Retail slippages at 3.7% of retail advances were lowest in the last seven quarters. There was improvement across secured and unsecured portfolios.

IDBI Bank Q3 net almost unchanged at ₹1,935 crore

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

IDBI Bank on Saturday reported an almost flat profit at ₹1,935 crore for the third quarter ended December.

The LIC-controlled bank reported a net profit of ₹1,908 crore a year earlier.

However, the bank's total income declined to ₹8,282 crore during the quarter under review from ₹8,565 crore in the same period last year, IDBI Bank said in a regulatory filing.

Interest income falls

The bank's interest income also fell during the third quarter of the current fiscal year to ₹7,074 crore against ₹7,816 crore a year earlier. Gross non-performing asset (NPA) ratio improved to 2.57% as of December 31 compared with 3.57% a year earlier.

However, the net NPA remained static at 0.18% at the end of December 2025.

Capital adequacy ratio rose to 24.63% compared with 21.98% at the end of December 2024. Return on Assets (ROA) moderated to 1.83% in Q3FY26 compared with 1.99% a year ago.

Oil & Gas sector calls for review of cess on indigenous production

Saptaparno Ghosh
NEW DELHI

In the run-up to the Union Budget presentation February 1, the petroleum industry has sought the government consider reviewing the oil industry development board (OID) cess alongside providing incentives to enable a further boost to exploration activities, both mature and frontier fields, and a push for upgrading refinery capacity as a catalyst to assist diversification efforts of the country.

Cess on slab system

Speaking to *The Hindu* on the condition of anonymity, an industry source sough the OID cess be reviewed. It is levied at 20% on an ad-valorem basis on the production from nomination blocks. "What the industry wants is the cess could be sought as per a slab-system, on an incremental basis as per the oil prices," they stated, noting that global oil prices are subject to fluctuations.

Import dependence impacts costs, says Datta Power's Gagal.

Wind energy firms for PLI to cut import dependency

Saptaparno Ghosh
NEW DELHI

Instituting production-linked incentive (PLI) schemes to curtail import dependency on critical components in the longer-term and rationalising import duties for support in the short term, forms the core of the wind energy producers' wish list for the upcoming Union Budget.

Varchasvi Gagal, MD and CEO, Datta Power Infra Pvt. Ltd. told *The Hindu* while India's annual wind turbine manufacturing capacity was mostly assembled locally, it was dependent on imports for high-value parts such as gearboxes, special bearing, controllers and yaw machines. "Dependency on these impacts cost, technology control and strategic autonomy," he said.

Office of District Election Officer (Collector), Bhilwara
Sr no/2025-26/NIB/D-80042 **Date: 09/01/26**

Notice Inviting Bid

Following bids are invited from interested bidders upto date 19/01/2026 at 11:00 A.M. (S.no 5 to 13) and upto date 02/02/2026 at 11:00 A.M. (S.no 1 to 04). Other particulars of the bid may be visited on the eprocurement portal (http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in) & (http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in) of the state.

NIB: CBL2526A0007 (S.no 1 to 12)

S.no.	Description of tender	e-Proc Tender ID	UBN NO
1	Tent and Furniture	2026_ELECT_526642_1	CBL2526SLRC00011
2	Light, Generator and Mic	2026_ELECT_526642_2	CBL2526SLRC00012
3	Refreshment/ Food packet	2026_ELECT_526642_3	CBL2526SLRC00013
4	Videography/ photography	2026_ELECT_526642_4	CBL2526SLRC00015
5	Stationary	2026_ELECT_526642_5	CBL2526GLRC00016
6	Flex and banner / Pamplet	2026_ELECT_526642_6	CBL2526GLRC00017
7	Water arrangement	2026_ELECT_526642_7	CBL2526SLRC00018
8	Poling material and voting compartment	2026_ELECT_526642_8	CBL2526GLRC00019
9	Computer stationary	2026_ELECT_526642_9	CBL2526GLRC00020
10	Printing	2026_ELECT_526642_10	CBL2526SLRC00021
11	CCTV Camera with Colour TV	2026_ELECT_526642_10	CBL2526SLRC00022
12	Ballot paper printing	2026_ELECT_526642_12	CBL2526GLRC00025

NIB : CBL2526A0008

13	Photocopy work	2026_ELECT_526685_1	CBL2526SLRC00026

District Election Officer (Collector) Bhilwara
DIPR/C/733

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL

West Bengal Housing Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited
(A Govt. of West Bengal Undertaking)
HIDCO BHABAN, Premises No. 35-1111, Biswa Bangla Sarani, 3rd Rotary, New Town, Kolkata-700156

Abridged Notice for e-Auction

Memo No. C – 27(1)/HIDCO/Admn - 4465/2026 Date 15.01.2026

e-Auction ID & Dt.	PLOT NO.	PLOT SIZE	PURPOSE	E-AUCTION DATE	LAST DATE OF APPLICATION
2026_WB_5333 Dt. 15.01.2026	PLOT NO. IIB/1376 IN ACTION AREA II OF NEW TOWN, KOLKATA	1.00 Acres	Residential	13.02.2026	06.02.2026 up to 14:00 hrs.
2026_WB_5334 Dt. 15.01.2026	PLOT NO. IIB/BLK-15 IN ACTION AREA II OF NEW TOWN, KOLKATA	1.00 Acres	Residential	13.02.2026	06.02.2026 up to 14:00 hrs.
2026_WB_5335 Dt. 15.01.2026	PLOT NO. IID/31 IN ACTION AREA II OF NEW TOWN, KOLKATA	0.920 Acres	Residential	13.02.2026	06.02.2026 up to 14:00 hrs.
2026_WB_5336 Dt. 15.01.2026	PLOT NO. IID-31/2 IN ACTION AREA II OF NEW TOWN, KOLKATA	0.500 Acres	Residential	13.02.2026	06.02.2026 up to 14:00 hrs.
2026_WB_5337 Dt. 15.01.2026	PLOT NO. IID-31/2/1 IN ACTION AREA II OF NEW TOWN, KOLKATA	0.500 Acres	Residential	13.02.2026	06.02.2026 up to 14:00 hrs
2026_WB_5338 Dt. 15.01.2026	PLOT NO. IIE/5/1 IN ACTION AREA II OF NEW TOWN, KOLKATA	0.998 Acres	Residential	13.02.2026	06.02.2026 up to 14:00 hrs.

For details, please visit https://eauction.gov.in or www.wbhidcoltd.com
Contact no :- 2324-6032/6037/6038

[CA- T1394(4)/2025

आर्मर्ड व्हीकल्स निगम लिमिटेड
भारत सरकार का उद्यम
रक्षा मंत्रालय

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A GOVT. OF INDIA ENTERPRISE
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

सर्वा: प्रदिशो जयेम

CIN-U35990TN2021GOI14550

ADVT. NO. AVNLCO/HR/2026/01

ENGAGEMENT OF PROFESSIONALS ON FIXED TERM CONTRACT POLICY

Armoured Vehicles Nigam Limited (AVANI) (AVNL) is a new Defence PSU with its headquarters at Avadi (Chennai). AVNL is engaged in the manufacturing of battle tanks (T-72, T-90, MBT Arjun), Infantry Combat Vehicles, Support vehicles (MPV, AERV etc.) and Defence mobility solutions (Stallion, LPTA etc.) for the armed forces and homeland security agencies. It is the current market leader in this segment. It is a new Government Company with Great Future. It offers great work environment and challenging opportunities for the professionals to prove their mettle.

Offline applications are invited from eligible candidates for contractual engagement for the following post:

S. No.	NAME OF THE POST	NO OF VACANCY	TOTAL CONSOLIDATED REMUNERATION (PER MONTH) ALL INCLUSIVE	NATURE OF APPOINTMENT
1.	Jt. General Manager (Security) - FTC	01 [01-UR)	Rs. 90,000/- + IDA	Engagement on Fixed Term Contract Basis
2.	Senior Manager (Intellectual Property) - FTC	01 [01-UR)	Rs. 70,000/- + IDA	

The last date of receipt of application will be 21 Days from the date of publication of this advertisement. For further information please visit our AVNL website: **www.avnl.co.in** for detailed job specification, qualification, experience, skills, remuneration, procedure, application format, terms and conditions for applying for the said posts.

Note:

Any corrigendum / amendment in this advertisement will be published / uploaded on AVNL website ONLY. Candidates are requested to visit the website regularly for latest updates / Corrigendum.

HR Division, AVNL CO,
Chennai
Email: **hr@avnl.co.in**
Dated: 18-01-2026
Tele: 044 – 26844808/26844810

Reserve Bank of India, Kolkata
www.rbi.org.in
Issue Department, 15, Netaji Subhas Road, Kolkata-700001,
Phone - 033-2213 0684, **E-mail:** idkolkata@rbi.org.in

Notice inviting e-Tender

Reserve Bank of India, Kolkata invites e-Tenders in two parts (Part - I and Part - II) for the following works

Sr. No.	Name of the work	Estimated cost: For two years (FY 2026-27 & FY 2027-28)
1	Supply of sufficient number of fully covered metallic container trucks / vehicles for transportation of coins packed in bags (with carrier's risk) and/or banknotes packed in boxes	₹26.04 Crore
2	Supply of sufficient number of adult and able-bodied labourers for handling of coin bags and note boxes	₹1.61 Crore

For full details of the eligibility as well as for downloading both the tender form along with Part - I and Part - II, please visit the following website:
https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/BS_ViewTenders.aspx or
https://www.mstcecommerce.com/eprochome/rbi
2. Date of floating Tender on MSTC e-Procurement Portal: January 18, 2026 at 10:00 hrs.
Last date for submission of tenders (Part-I and Part - II): February 19, 2026, 13:00 hrs
3. The Bank reserves the right to reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reason thereof. No claims of whatsoever nature will be entertained by the Bank in such scenario.
Note: Corrigendum, if any, issued on the above advertisement, will be published only on the Bank's website.

Regional Director
West Bengal and Andaman & Nicobar Islands

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www.rbi.org.in
निर्गम विभाग, 15, नेताजी सुभाष रोड, कोलकाता-700001
फोन - 033-2213 0684, **ई-मेल:** idkolkata@rbi.org.in

ई-निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना

1.भारतीय रिज़र्व बैंक, कोलकाता निम्नलिखित कार्यों के लिए दो भागों (भाग-I और भाग-II) में ई-निविदाएं आमंत्रित करता है:

क्र. सं.	कार्य का नाम	अनुमानित लागत: दो वर्षों (वित्त वर्ष 2026-27 और वित्त वर्ष 2027-28) के लिए
1	बैग में पैक किए गए सिक्कों (वाहक के जोखिम के साथ) और/या बक्से में पैक किए गए बैंक नोटों के परिवहन के लिए पर्याप्त संख्या में पूरी तरह से ढके धातु कंटेनर ट्रकों/वाहनों की आपूर्ति	₹26.04 करोड़
2	सिक्का बैग और नोट बॉक्स के संचालन के लिए पर्याप्त संख्या में वयस्क और सक्षम श्रमिकों की आपूर्ति	₹1.61 करोड़

1.पात्रता के पूर्ण विवरण के साथ-साथ भाग - I और भाग - II के साथ दोनों निविदा फॉर्म डाउनलोड करने के लिए, कृपया निम्नलिखित वेबसाइट पर जाएं:
https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/BS_ViewTenders.aspx या
https://www.mstcecommerce.com/eprochome/rbi
2. एमएसटीसी ई-प्रोक्योरमेंट पोर्टल पर निविदा फ्लोट होने की तिथि: 18 जनवरी, 2026 10:00 बजे। निविदाएं जमा करने की अंतिम तिथि (भाग-I और भाग-II): 19 फरवरी 2026, 13:00 बजे
3. बैंक किसी भी या सभी निविदाओं को बिना कोई कारण बताए अस्वीकार करने का अधिकार सुरक्षित रखता है। ऐसी स्थिति में बैंक द्वारा किसी भी प्रकार के दावों पर विचार नहीं किया जाएगा।
नोट: उपरोक्त विज्ञापन के संबंध में जारी शुद्धिपत्र, यदि कोई हो, केवल बैंक की वेबसाइट पर प्रकाशित किया जाएगा

क्षेत्रीय निदेशक
पश्चिम बंगाल और अंडमान व निकोबार द्वीप समूह

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Scientists find spaceflight affects immune genes, deforms brain

Vasudevan Mukunth

As humans prepare for longer missions to the moon and eventually Mars, scientists need to understand exactly how spaceflight affects the human body. They already know the microgravity and radiation in space affect astronauts' health.

To this end, a study published on January 2 in *Science* by researchers from Saudi Arabia examined human immune cells (THP-1 monocytes) that had been sent to the International Space Station. They found that the space environment significantly altered the cells' gene expression, the instructions that tell cells how to behave.

Specifically, genes related to heart function, the nervous system, and the senses of vision and smell became overactive, which could explain astronaut health issues like heart risks and sleep trouble. On the other hand genes that repaired DNA and helped cells divide worked less effectively, signalling long-term risks.

Previous research has shown that without gravity, the brain tends to shift position inside the skull. However, these studies only looked at the average movement of the whole brain. Another study published on January 12 in *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* by researchers has examined changes in specific regions.

The researchers analysed MRI scans from 26 astronauts before and after missions and compared them to a control group of 24 participants in a head-down tilt bed rest study. Here, people lie in bed with their heads slightly lower than their feet for 60 days to mimic the effects of weightlessness.

This way, the study found that during spaceflight, different parts of the brain (reversibly) move and deform in different ways. Those that handle movement and sensation shifted the most. In astronauts who spent a year in space, the supplementary motor cortex moved 2.52 mm up. The researchers also found that the more the posterior insula shifted, the worse the astronauts performed on balance tests when they returned, although the 'why' remains unclear.

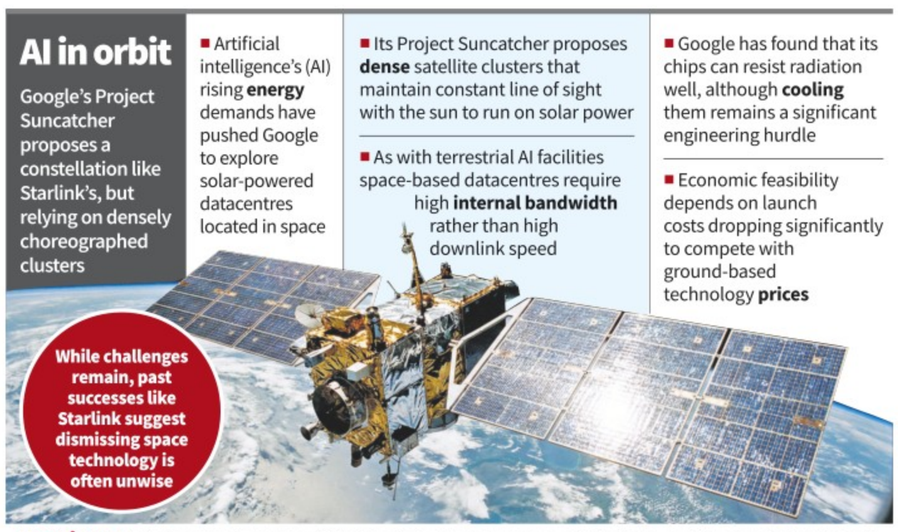
The scientists identified the limited sample size, inability to capture changes within specific brain regions, crew members being tested at different times post-mission, and the incomplete ability of the tilt test to mimic the effects of gravity on the brain as limitations of their effort.

Nonetheless, "Our approach provides state-of-the-art regional brain deformation and position shift maps induced by varying duration exposures to microgravity," the team wrote.

Can datacentres in orbit solve for AI models' energy demand?

Google's Project Suncatcher is experimenting with a novel approach: putting datacentres servicing AI workloads in low-earth orbit and letting them feed on solar energy; ISRO is also reportedly studying space-based datacentre technology

Aroon Deep


AI in orbit
Google's Project Suncatcher proposes a constellation like Starlink's, but relying on densely choreographed clusters
Artificial intelligence's (AI) rising energy demands have pushed Google to explore solar-powered datacentres located in space
Its Project Suncatcher proposes dense satellite clusters that maintain constant line of sight with the sun to run on solar power
As with terrestrial AI facilities space-based datacentres require high internal bandwidth rather than high downlink speed
Google has found that its chips can resist radiation well, although cooling them remains a significant engineering hurdle
Economic feasibility depends on launch costs dropping significantly to compete with ground-based technology prices
While challenges remain, past successes like Starlink suggest dismissing space technology is often unwise

Heat is on: A datacentre in space will be blasted with solar energy all the time and have to dissipate heat in a vacuum. CREATED WITH NANO BANANA PRO

Datacentres are a growing share of global electricity consumption, and artificial intelligence is driving those power demands up. This is because AI datacentres use dense clusters of graphics processing units (GPUs) for running machine learning workloads, both when training large language models and deploying them. Since the generative AI boom shows no sign of slowing down, datacentres are guzzling more energy than ever, with whatever electricity sources are available. This has pushed Google Research to explore a literally outlandish prospect: launching datacentres into space and running them entirely on solar energy.

Google Research is so confident about this idea that its researchers have already chalked out a few of the main technical challenges and potential solutions.

Traditional datacentres have been driven primarily by growing consumption of content. In markets like India, that's mainly video, and as a result the bandwidth a datacentre needs on its own premises has theoretically been the same as that it is delivering to, or receiving from, the outside world.

AI datacentres are different. They need high bandwidth not between the infrastructure they host and the users they serve but within the datacentre itself, and with others situated nearby. For instance, Microsoft's AI datacentre complexes, called Fairwater, have petabit-per-second links between facilities. That is 10 lakh gigabits per second, a million times faster than the best consumer grade internet connection typically offered in Indian metros.

That kind of densely networked architecture is also important for datacentres in space. Since most of the bandwidth would be used for the distributed workloads across multiple satellites, the downlink bandwidth with ground stations is not nearly as important. An analogy is available closer to home: ChatGPT needs these superfast connections in its own infrastructure, but all the user needs the bandwidth for is the query they send and the response they receive.

Project Suncatcher proposes a constellation like Starlink's, but instead of being an evenly spread swarm blanketing the earth, the equipment architecture would rely on densely choreographed clusters, with each satellite no more than a few kilometres from its neighbours, while following an orbit that would always maintain a line of sight with the sun. This combined with technologies like multiplexing, which allows more data to be packed into a single radio beam, would enable the satellites to theoretically distribute their work while having enough power to operate.

Of course, there are many other challenges, and Google is working its way through. One obvious issue is how solar radiation might affect the tensor processing units over years of operation. "While the high bandwidth memory (HBM) subsystems were the most sensitive component, they only began showing irregularities after a cumulative dose of 2 krad(Si) – nearly three times the expected (shielded) five year mission dose of 750 rad(Si)," Google researcher Travis Beals wrote in a post last November about Suncatcher.

"No hard failures were attributable to total ionizing dose up to the maximum tested dose of 15 krad (Si) on a single chip, indicating that Trillium TPUs are surprisingly radiation-hard for space applications."

But datacentres have to be maintained all the time, and once equipment is in orbit, there's no cheap way to reach space for troubleshooting. Another "significant engineering challenge" is thermal management: While liquid cooling is practical in terrestrial datacentres, those in space are going to be blasted with solar energy all the time and have to dissipate heat in a vacuum.

Perhaps the greatest challenge is economics. For space-based datacentres to be feasible, the cumulative cost of researching their technologies, placing clusters in space, and conducting fresh launches to replace individual satellites that have stopped working must together be competitive with the price a firm pays to work with technology that's already on the ground.

Google says satellite launch prices will have declined to $200 per kilogram by the mid-2030s and that power savings due to the design of the architecture could lead to a compelling business case. Time will tell if Google – or indeed ISRO, which is also reportedly studying space-based datacentres – will be able to hit all these technological and economic targets while keeping pace with advancements for ground-based datacentres. Microsoft Natick, which tried underwater datacentres to make cooling their systems easier, ultimately abandoned the experiment in spite of its promise.

This said, scepticism about the viability and usefulness of satellite technologies tends to not age very well. Few could have predicted that Starlink would be able to reach the scale and performance it boasts today when SpaceX launched its very first test satellites in 2019.

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When tech billionaires start packing their bags

DECODED

John Xavier

While most of us were gearing up for the new year, something happened quietly toward the end of last year.

The founders of Google – Larry Page and Sergey Brin – began moving parts of their business and investment structures out of California. Dozens of entities tied to them were either shut down or re-registered elsewhere. Nevada. Florida. Texas. A large home in Miami. A private air terminal moved under a different jurisdiction, *the New York Times* reported.

None of this is illegal. None of it is especially surprising. But it is telling.

Page and Brin built Google in California at a time when the internet was still young, smartphones didn't exist, and Facebook hadn't been launched. Google grew alongside Silicon Valley itself, feeding off the talent, capital, universities, and risk appetite that the state had cultivated for decades.

Now, California is considering a one-time wealth tax on residents worth more than a billion dollars. If it passes, it would apply retroactively. And that possibility seems to have concentrated minds.

Some of the reactions have been loud. Venture capitalists warning of capital flight. Entrepreneurs saying innovation will suffer. Others pushing back, arguing that extreme wealth should contribute more to public systems that are under strain.

But I'm less interested in who is right, and more interested in what this moment reveals.

In the digital economy,

California is considering a one-time wealth tax on residents worth more than a billion dollars. REUTERS

wealth travels easily. Code doesn't care about borders. Intellectual property fits neatly into legal entities. For people whose fortunes are mostly numbers on paper moving is often a matter of paperwork and planning.

States, on the other hand, move slowly. Laws take time. Ballot measures take even longer. They are built for a world where capital stayed put longer than it does now. That mismatch is what we're seeing play out.

Some tech leaders, like Jensen Huang of Nvidia, have said publicly that they accept whatever taxes California decides to impose. Others have chosen to quietly reduce their exposure. Both responses make sense from their own vantage points.

But together, they point to something uncomfortable.

The relationship between wealth and place is weakening.

In earlier eras, companies needed to stay close to factories, ports, workers, and infrastructure. Leaving a place meant real disruption. Today, many of the most valuable companies and individuals can operate almost anywhere.

That gives capital flexibility. It also weakens the idea of obligation.

California's problem isn't simply whether a wealth tax is good policy. It's whether states can still shape outcomes when the people they're trying to govern can so easily opt out. Push too hard, and they leave. Push too little, and inequality deepens.

While California's case is not unique, its where the tension is most visible right now.

As AI and automation concentrate wealth further, more governments will face the same dilemma. How do you fund public goods when the most mobile people benefit the most from systems they no longer feel tied to?

There are no neat answers here. Only trade-offs.

What struck me most was the quietness of it. No press releases. No grand statements. Just filings, deeds, and addresses changing. That's often how big shifts begin.

Not with drama. But with people calmly preparing for a future where allegiance is flexible, and place matters less than it used to.

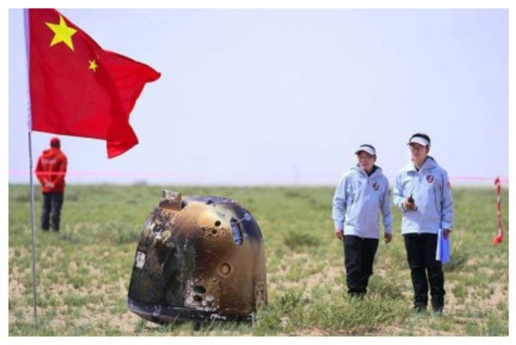
And perhaps that's the real question this moment raises – not just for California, but for all of us building and working in technology. If the systems we create allow us to move faster than the societies we depend on, what do we still owe them?

I don't have an answer. But it feels like the right question to sit with.

SNAPSHOTS

Agri emissions are high but output is increasing faster

Researchers have found that since 1961, agricultural output has tripled while emissions have grown by 45%, a separation between growth and pollution they call 'decoupling'. It is driven by total factor productivity, meaning farmers are on average getting better at producing more food using fewer resources rather than just switching to cleaner inputs. Technologies that make land more productive have also been better for the climate than those that make farm workers faster.



'Deep impact' event may have altered moon's chemistry

Scientists have found the moon rocks retrieved by China's Chang'e-6 mission from the lunar far side are chemically different from near-side samples. The rocks contain heavier iron and potassium isotopes. While volcanic activity could explain the iron differences, potassium points to a more dramatic event. The researchers conclude that the asteroid crash that created the gigantic South Pole-Aitken basin generated extreme heat, causing lighter potassium to evaporate from the moon's interior, leaving heavier atoms behind.

Horses sense fear through sweat, become nervous

In an experiment, researchers collected sweat from people watching scary or happy videos, then let horses sniff these samples. When they smelled the 'fear' sweat, they became nervous, were less likely to approach or touch a person, and reacted more intensely to sudden noises, with higher heart rates. Sweat from happy humans didn't have a different reaction than a neutral smell. This could explain why horses often get nervous around anxious handlers.

Question Corner

Fast and forward

When a fan is spinning fast, why can it seem like it's spinning backwards?

This is an illusion caused by the way our eyes and brains sample motion in discrete snapshots and the fact that fans have identical blades.

Our visual system 'integrates' information over short time windows and updates its best guess of where the blades are many times per second. If between two updates the fan has rotated almost, but not quite, 360°, the pattern we see now looks most similar to the pattern from a moment ago after a small shift in the opposite direction.

That is, your brain tends to match the current image to the previous one using the smallest apparent shift, because that's usually the most plausible, and that shift can be negative, or backwards, rather than positive.

Further, LED and fluorescent lights often flicker, which can act like a strobe, forcing your visual system to sample the fan at regular intervals. If the fan advances by slightly less than an integer number of blade spacings between 'samples', it will appear to drift backwards. This can be another cause of the same effect.

Readers may send their questions / answers to science@thehindu.co.in

How are crypto firms vetting customers?

What has India's Financial Intelligence Unit mandated? How did crypto exchanges verify customers before?

Sahana Venugopal

The story so far:

On January 8, India's Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU-IND) regulator updated the existing 'AML & CFT Guidelines for Reporting Entities Providing Services Related to Virtual Digital Assets.' These guidelines apply to entities that include cryptocurrency exchanges, setting down rules that govern how companies facilitating crypto trades will have to vet their customers.

What do the updated guidelines say?

Cryptocurrency exchanges will have to carry out their due diligence and obtain verified Know-Your-Client/Customer (KYC) details. In addition to this, exchanges will have to collect their customers' occupation and income range, a selfie with "liveness detection," and latitude and longitude coordinates of the onboarding location with the date, timestamp, and IP address. What's more, the customer's bank account will have to be verified through the penny drop method, in which a small sum is transacted to make sure that the account belongs to the stated person and is in working order. Exchanges will also have to identify high-risk transactions and clients in order to apply enhanced measures to them.

Do all exchanges carry out KYC procedures?

Centralised exchanges that support cryptocurrency trades have already been carrying out KYC procedures for years to ensure that legitimate customers are using their services for legal purposes. KYC also makes it easier to deter criminal activities, and freeze offending accounts. A persistent concern is that fiat currency, such as the rupee, could be converted into harder-to-trace crypto assets in order to evade legal reporting requirements. Anti-Money Laundering (AML) laws exist to prevent this. Regulators also fear that cryptocurrencies could be used to financially support terrorist groups, leading to the Countering the Financing of Terrorism (CFT) regulations that institutions must comply with. For example, Binance settled with U.S. regulators in 2023 for violations that included its failure to "implement programs to prevent and report suspicious transactions" with terrorists, ransomware attackers, money launderers, child abusers, criminals, and sanctioned users. Meanwhile, blockchain analytics platform Chainalysis reported that Lebanese Hezbollah, Hamas, and the Houthis were using crypto "at scales never before observed, in spite of various military setbacks".

> Numerous decentralised exchanges, called DEXs, offer a fully anonymous and unregulated transacting experience with far fewer controls and safeguards

Naturally, Indian regulators are keen to prevent crypto exchanges within the country from being used to facilitate similar illegal transactions. However, not all crypto exchanges carry out stringent KYC procedures. For example, numerous decentralised exchanges, called DEXs, offer a fully anonymous and unregulated transacting experience with far fewer controls and safeguards. While there are many non-criminal reasons for using a DEX, such as ensuring privacy, and avoiding state repression, DEXs are also attractive options for money launderers, scammers, hackers, and those financing terrorism.

How do exchanges vet Indian customers?

WazirX founder Nischal Shetty stated that leading Indian exchanges were already following global best practices and bank-level compliance standards, with the FIU's new rules formalising existing ones. WazirX, which experienced a hacked multi-signature wallet in July 2024 and the loss of around $230 million in assets, resumed operations last year. "The updated guidelines also highlight liveliness detection for new users, and geo tagging to ensure the ID verification details match with the user location (exceptions apply under different conditions), which are already in place in our user onboarding process. We also have an instant verification process enabled with DigiLocker where it securely shares a new user's KYC documents (Aadhaar and PAN) with WazirX," Mr. Shetty told *The Hindu*.

Furthermore, ZebPay and CoinDCX, both popular crypto exchanges, were collecting users' photos as part of the KYC process for more than a year at least, according to their websites. Periodic KYC re-verification was routine at multiple crypto exchanges even before the rules were updated, while several Indian exchanges also offered KYC via DigiLocker. In essence, FIU-IND's guidelines do not introduce drastic changes to the existing KYC framework for crypto exchanges.

Both investors as well as business leaders in India have called for greater regulatory clarity surrounding cryptocurrencies. Though crypto sees capital gains taxed at 30% and a TDS rate of 1%, there is almost no reliable safety net for Indian investors in case they are scammed or subjected to unfair terms by private players.

What happened to ISRO's PSLV-C62 mission?

What did ISRO chairman V. Narayanan state about the mission? How did Thailand's space agency GISTDA respond? Are Failure Analysis Committees standing bodies within the ISRO? Has the FAC report of the PSLV-C61 mission been released in the public domain?

Vasudevan Mukunth

The story so far:

On January 12, the Indian Space Research Organisation's (ISRO) PSLV-C62 mission lifted off from Sriharikota carrying the EOS-N1 satellite along with 15 co-passenger satellites. Within minutes, ISRO said the mission had "encountered an anomaly during end of the PS3 stage", and that a detailed analysis was initiated.

What was the anomaly?

In a televised briefing after the launch, ISRO chairman V. Narayanan described what mission control was seeing: that performance was "as expected" up to near the end of the rocket's third stage, called PS3, then that there was increased "disturbance in the vehicle roll rates", followed by a deviation in the flight path. In other words, towards the end of the third stage, the rocket was spinning uncontrollably, enough for it to not be able to continue on its planned path. As of January 16, ISRO hasn't published a statement about the root cause of the mishap.

Following the incident, Thailand's space agency GISTDA, whose THEOS-2A satellite was on board PSLV-C62, said a malfunction late in the third stage caused an attitude-control abnormality and the vehicle deviated from its trajectory, preventing the rocket from deploying the satellites it was carrying. GISTDA also said the rocket and satellites were expected to fall back and burn up over the southern Indian Ocean. The anomaly resembled the events preceding the failure of the PSLV-C61 mission on May 18, 2025.

> The mission's primary payload was EOS-N1, a surveillance satellite from the Defence Research and Development Organisation

Grave error: ISRO's PSLV-C62 carrying the EOS-N1 lifts off from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh, on January 12. PTI

What happened to PSLV-C61?

ISRO's PSLV-C61 mission was carrying the EOS-09 satellite. The rocket failed after the first two stages, with the third stage not performing nominally. ISRO noted a drop in chamber pressure in the third-stage motor case during the PS3 operation, after which it said the mission "could not be accomplished".

Based on what has been reported publicly so far, both the C62 and the C61 missions suffered decisive anomalies on PS3 after a nominal early ascent and neither could deploy their payloads into the designated orbit (with a qualification for the KID payload). In C62, the main symptom was a "roll rate disturbance" late in the PS3 stage operation; in C61, the symptom was a chamber-pressure drop in the PS3 motor casing.

ISRO's initial communications in both cases also stressed that an anomaly had occurred and that analysis was underway, but it did not publish a detailed list of corrective actions it would have to take. After the C61 mission failed, Dr. Narayanan constituted a Failure Analysis Committee (FAC) to look into the causes of the mishap. The FAC submitted its report to the Prime Minister's Office in mid-2025.

What does the FAC do?

The FAC is not a standing body of experts within ISRO but instead an entity the ISRO chairman constitutes in the event of a major incident. Its responsibility is to reconstruct the chain of events leading up to the failure using telemetry and subsystem data and in conversation with people involved in that mission. It's expected to identify the causes, and recommend corrective action before the vehicle is cleared for a 'return to flight'.

The Committee members include experts within ISRO as well as relevant experts from academia. It has also been known to include former ISRO chairmen. The FAC submits its final report to the Indian government. The ISRO chairman is Secretary to the Department of Space, which functions directly under the PMO.

The aftermath of the GSLV-F10 mission provides an instructive window into the FAC's efforts. After that mission failed in 2021, here's an excerpt of what the FAC found: "The FAC concluded that the lower liquid hydrogen tank pressure at the time of cryogenic upper stage engine ignition, caused by the leakage of vent and relief valve resulted in the malfunctioning of the fuel booster turbo pump, leading to mission abort command and subsequent failure of the mission."

Where is the PSLV-C61 FAC report?

Although the PSLV-C61 FAC submitted its report to the PMO, the PMO hasn't cleared it for public release yet. Independent experts criticised the decision to withhold it after PSLV-C62 also suffered an anomaly in its third stage. ISRO has also not said whether it has constituted an FAC for the C62 mission, although a short statement on its website says "a detailed analysis has been initiated". On November 15, 2025, during an unrelated lecture, Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre director A. Rajarajan had attributed the loss of the PSLV-C61 mission to a "slight manufacturing error".

That said this isn't the first time details of the FAC's findings of a mishap have been withheld. Previous instances include the PSLV-C39 mission in 2017. ISRO has also been terse about the issues leading up to the underperformance of the NVS-02 satellite.

Earlier, even when the FAC report hadn't been released into the public domain, ISRO had issued statements with detailed summaries of the FAC's findings, for example, after the GSLV-F10 mission in 2021 and the GSLV-F02 mission in 2006. The aftermath of PSLV-C61 is a break from the past in this sense as well, since no such statements have been issued.

What happened to satellites on PSLV-C62?

The mission's primary payload was EOS-N1, a surveillance satellite from the Defence Research and Development Organisation. The co-passengers comprised payloads involving Thailand, the U.K., Nepal, France, Spain, and Brazil, plus seven satellites from Indian enterprises.

The PSLV has failed four times so far, but PSLV-C62 was the first time it failed while carrying customer satellites provided by Indian and foreign entities. The mission had been facilitated by ISRO's commercial arm, NewSpace India, Ltd. While the ISRO didn't say whether the mission had failed after the anomaly on January 12, the statement from Thailand's GISTDA suggested that the rocket's remaining stages and the payloads would fall back down towards the earth and burn up.

The KID payload was a reentry demonstrator – a device designed to fall back down from orbit and splash into the southern Pacific Ocean. In a statement released after January 12, Orbital Paradigm, its Spain-based co-developer, said KID had transmitted "off-nominal" data for about three minutes.

GISTDA said its THEOS-2A satellite had been insured. The Indian private sector payloads onboard PSLV-C62 reportedly hadn't been insured, so the cost of the loss would have been absorbed by the developers of each satellite. The cost of losing EOS-N1 will be borne by India.

Has an Arbitration Council been constituted?

What would be the functions of the Arbitration Council of India? Why have there been concerns with respect to institutional impartiality? What are some of the criticisms of the amendments? What does the draft Arbitration and Conciliation (Amendment) Bill, 2024 propose?

Aaratrika Bhaumik

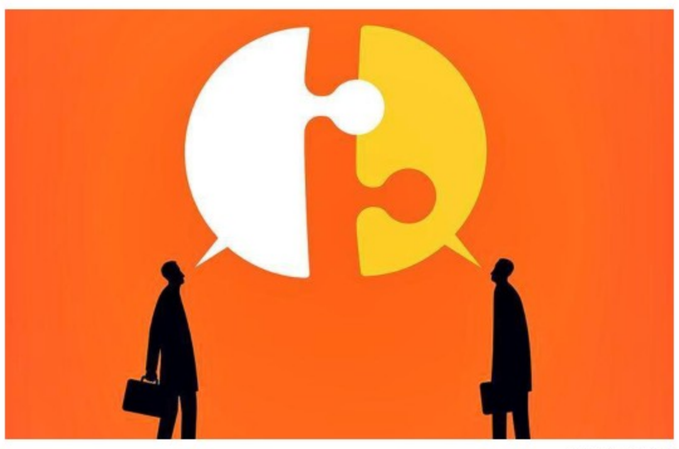
The story so far:

Nearly six years after the 2019 amendments to the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996 (1996 Act), the Union government is yet to constitute the Arbitration Council of India (ACI), envisaged as the central regulatory and promotional body for institutional arbitration.

What was the proposed mandate?

The 2019 amendments proposed the establishment of the ACI as a premier regulatory body tasked with promoting, reforming, and advancing the practice of arbitration in the country. This institutional framework drew from the recommendations of the High-Level Committee on Arbitration, chaired by Justice B.N. Srikrishna, which submitted its report in July 2017. The amendments vested the Council with a wide range of functions, including grading arbitral institutions, recognising professional bodies that accredit arbitrators, and maintaining a repository of arbitral awards made in India. The ACI was proposed to be headed by a Chairperson appointed by the Union government in consultation with the Chief Justice of India. The Chairperson could be a former judge of the Supreme Court, a former Chief Justice or judge of a High Court, or an eminent person with expertise in arbitration. In addition, the Council was to comprise ex officio members from the executive.

> Experts have cautioned that a government-dominated arbitration regulator with powers to grade institutions, and advise on policy raises serious questions of independence



GETTY IMAGES

What about institutional independence?

A major criticism of the Council relates to its perceived lack of institutional impartiality. Most of its members are either nominated or appointed by the Union government. This has raised concerns about the independence of arbitration in India, particularly given that the government remains the single largest litigant. Experts have also cautioned that a government-dominated arbitration regulator with powers to grade institutions, accredit arbitrators, and advise on policy raises serious questions of independence and finds little precedent in arbitration-friendly jurisdictions.

Concerns have also been raised about the ACI's role in accrediting and grading arbitral institutions. While this framework is said to draw inspiration from jurisdictions such as Singapore and Hong Kong, a key distinction remains. In both jurisdictions, arbitration is administered primarily through a single, centralised arbitral institution rather than through a regulatory body overseeing multiple institutions. The 2019 amendments empower the ACI to accredit an unlimited number of arbitral institutions, a feature that could dilute quality standards, place significant administrative demands on the Council, and add to costs for the public exchequer. Another concern relates to the exclusion of foreign legal professionals from the pool of qualified arbitrators. Their exclusion could further undermine India's attractiveness as a seat of arbitration for foreign parties.

What does the 2024 draft Bill mandate?

On October 18, 2024, the Union government released the draft Arbitration and Conciliation (Amendment) Bill, 2024, inviting public comments. The draft Bill seeks to give fresh impetus to institutional arbitration through a series of structural reforms. It introduces a revised definition of an "arbitral institution" as a body or organisation that conducts arbitration proceedings under its aegis, in accordance with its own procedural rules or as otherwise agreed by the parties. This marks a departure from the 2019 amendments, which required institutions to be formally designated by the Supreme Court or a High Court as arbitral institutions.

The Bill also proposes to expand the role of arbitral institutions by vesting them with powers that currently lie exclusively with courts. These include the authority to extend the time limit for making an arbitral award, reduce arbitrators' fees where delays are attributable to the arbitral tribunal, and substitute arbitrators. If enacted, these measures are expected to reduce judicial intervention. However, in March 2025, responding to a question in Parliament, Union Law Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal said that the Bill was still under consideration.

How is it restricting judicial intervention?

Under the 1996 Act, Indian courts are empowered to grant interim measures to protect the rights of parties in an arbitration. At present, such relief may be granted before or during arbitral proceedings, and even after an award is rendered but before its enforcement in India. The draft Bill seeks to recalibrate this role by limiting courts' power to grant interim measures to the period before arbitration commences or after the award is rendered. It proposes to amend Section 9(2) of the Act, which currently requires arbitration to be commenced within 90 days of a court granting pre-arbitral interim relief. Under the proposed framework, this 90-day period would instead begin from the date on which an application for interim relief is filed. The stated objective is to curb delays caused by prolonged pre-arbitral court proceedings. Another significant proposal is the introduction of a new Section 9-A, which would allow parties to seek interim measures from an emergency arbitrator once arbitral proceedings have commenced but before the constitution of the arbitral tribunal.

What is the way forward?

According to the Justice B.N. Srikrishna-headed report, the continued dominance of ad hoc arbitration in India is primarily attributable to a strong preference for procedural autonomy. This preference is further reinforced by persistent scepticism towards domestic arbitral institutions, particularly with respect to independence and administrative competence. Bridging this trust deficit is critical if Indian institutions are to rival established global bodies.

The revolution will not be televised

Iran protests

What began as a shopkeepers' strike transformed into one of the largest anti-government protests the Islamic Republic has seen, triggering a violent crackdown in which thousands are feared killed; Tehran says Western intelligence agencies hijacked the protest and unleashed 'domestic terror'

Stanly Johny

"If someone can do something, by all means, go for it. I can't do anything. Don't curse me," Masoud Pezeshkian, Iran's President, told a gathering of university students and academics in early December. At another meeting with provincial *Ostandars* (governors) and local officials, the President said, "solve your problems yourselves. You shouldn't think that the President can make miracles happen." Mr. Pezheshkian, a heart surgeon-turned politician who won the 2024 elections on a platform of reform, said his government was "stuck, really badly stuck", referring to Iran's structural problems. The economy, reeling under Western sanctions, came under added strain after the June 2025 war with Israel and the U.S. Already grappling with hyperinflation and a tanking currency, a drought last year compounded Iran's economic distress, while periodic water and power cuts deepened public frustration. The government appeared largely helpless, while the security establishment prepared for the next round of confrontation with Israel. "Iran was a tinderbox," a Tehran-based academic said. "All it wanted was a spark."

The fuse was lit on December 28, when traders and shopkeepers in Tehran's Grand Bazaar went on strike over the collapsing currency, the rial. The bazaar carries immense symbolic weight in Iran's revolutionary folklore. In the late 1970s, it was a key hub of revolutionary activity. The *bazaaris* (the trading class), conservative in outlook and angered by the Shah's economic policies, threw their weight behind the anti-Shah movement, which snowballed into a nationwide uprising that brought down the monarchy in 1979.

In December 2025, the *bazaaris* shut their shops and staged rallies, demanding solutions to mounting economic grievances. The authorities initially showed restraint and promised to address the shopkeepers' demands, but protesters remained defiant. And then, on January 2, after meeting Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in Florida, U.S. President Donald Trump warned Iran's rulers against killing protesters. "The U.S. is locked and loaded," he wrote in a social media post.

Days later, as protests spread across the country, Iran imposed a nationwide Internet shutdown. A brutal crackdown followed. On January 10, security personnel used lethal force to crush the unrest. According to two Iran-watching organisations based in the U.S. and Norway, at least 3,000 people were killed. State media reported that more than 130 security personnel were also killed in the violence. Reza Pahlavi, the U.S.-based son of the late deposed monarch, emerged in Western media as the voice of Iran's opposition. He urged the protesters to sustain the pressure and unveiled a transition plan from America – which kept reinstating the monarchy as one of the options. Mr. Trump, for his part, called on "Iranian patriots" to keep protesting and "take over institutions", promising that "help is on the way". But after the January 10 crackdown, the protests appeared to lose momentum. Mr. Trump, meanwhile, seemed to have developed cold feet about military action – at least for now. He said he was "notified" that Iran had halted the planned execution of hundreds of protesters, calling it "good news".

Cycles of protests

The Islamic Republic, founded in 1979 after the ouster of the Shah, has witnessed several waves of protests ever since. In 1999, students launched a mass agitation demanding social and political reforms. The trigger was the shutdown of a reformist newspaper at the University of Tehran. In 2009, after allegations of a massive electoral fraud surfaced following the presidential election in which incumbent Mahmoud Ahmadinejad was declared winner, tens of thousands took to the streets. The unrest, which came to be known as the Green Movement, eventually lost momentum.

In September 2022, after Mahsa Amini, a 22-year-old Kurdish woman, died while in police custody, nationwide protests rocked the country once again. But by far the 2025-26 agitation proved the gravest challenge the Islamic Republic has faced. This time, the protesters took to the streets, with some calling for the overthrow of the regime, while the U.S. threatened to bomb Iran. It was a rare and perilous moment of convergence of both internal instability and the threat of external aggression.

Lit fuse: The protest started when traders and shopkeepers in the Grand Bazaar in Tehran went on strike over the collapsing currency. AP

"It's not that Iran doesn't want to solve its economic problems. Nor does the state want to live in perpetual cycles of unrest. There are issues of corruption and cronyism. But what has really tied the hands of the regime are the sanctions," said the Iranian academic.

Iran is among the most heavily sanctioned countries in the world. The U.S. imposed the first batch of sanctions on Iran's economy immediately after the 1979 revolution – it banned oil imports from Iran and froze some $12 billion in Iranian assets. In 1995, President Bill Clinton barred American companies from making investments in Iran's hydrocarbon sector. In 2006, the UN Security Council imposed additional sanctions over its nuclear programme. In 2019, the first Trump administration designated the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, a paramilitary unit, as "a foreign terrorist organisation". Currently, Iran's assets held overseas are largely frozen, its ability to trade freely is severely constrained and foreign countries and companies are effectively barred from making investments.

Sanctions on oil sharply reduced Iran's foreign exchange earnings and slowed down its economic growth. The loss of revenues led to massive deficits, which were financed by monetary expansion, triggering hyperinflation. Tehran had in the past sought to engage the West and ease the economic stranglehold without loosening its ideological grip. In 2015, Iran reached a multilateral nuclear deal, agreeing to scuttle its nuclear programme and open its facilities for international inspection, while retaining its nuclear technology. In return, the U.S., then led by Barack Obama, and other powers pledged to remove economic sanctions. The Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), as the nuclear deal was called, was seen by many as a new beginning for Tehran.

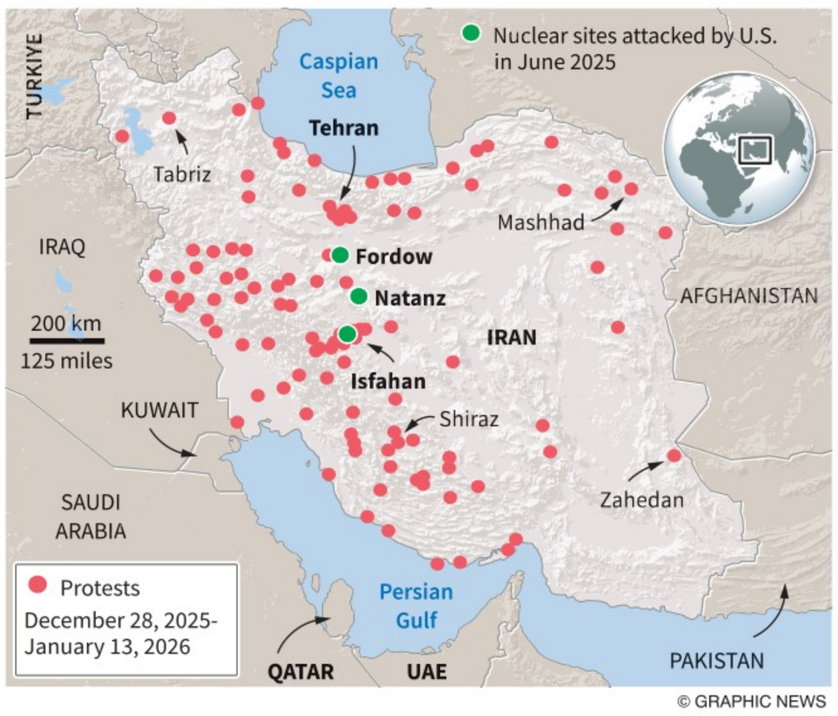
But Israel staunchly opposed the deal, and lobbied against it. In May 2018, during his first term, Mr. Trump tore up the agreement by pulling the U.S. out of it despite UN certification that Iran was fully compliant with the terms of the agreement. He reimposed sanctions on Iran, effectively killing the JCPOA. In response, Iran started enriching uranium to levels beyond the limits set by the deal. In September 2025, European nations reimposed snapback sanctions, saying Iran had violated the JCPOA.

Amid fears of conflict and uncertainty, economic pains mounted. In December, the rial's value fell by 16% – the currency lost roughly 60% of its value since the June war. Food inflation reached an annual rate of 72%, nearly double the official target. The Pezeshkian government tried to implement some reforms by increasing taxes and removing food and fuel subsidies, moves that only inflamed the public anger.

External interference

"In June, Iran was subjected to an illegal military attack by the U.S. and Israel. Over the past two weeks, Iran experienced a terrorist attack. We had Mossad agents directing rioters to attack police stations, schools and mosques. This was domestic terrorism," Foad Izadi, professor of world studies at Tehran University, told *The Hindu*. "It initially started as a peaceful protest by merchants, who were upset about currency fluctuations, but that was quickly hijacked by Israel and the U.S.," he said.

On January 2, on the day Mr. Trump declared the U.S. was "locked and loaded", Mossad, Israel's external spy agency, wrote on social media in Farsi, encouraging Iranians to protest against the government. "Go out together into the streets. The time has come," Mossad wrote. "We are with you. Not only from a distance and verbally. We are with you in the field." In October 2025, *Haaretz*, Israel's liberal daily, reported that Israel was indirectly funding Persian language online campaigns targeting the Iranian government, and projecting Reza Pahlavi as the next Shah. On January 3, Mike Pompeo, former U.S. Secretary of State and CIA chief, wrote on social media, "Happy New Year to every Iranian in the streets. Also to every Mossad agent walking beside them."



On January 13, Channel 14, a far-right Israeli channel, reported that "foreign actors are arming the protesters in Iran with live firearms".

Mr. Izadi said the Western media ignored these facts in their coverage of the "riots" in Iran. "The West wants to portray that peaceful protesters were killed by the police, but in reality, Mossad agents were shooting at ordinary citizens because they want to increase the number of deaths so that they could get Trump to attack Iran," added Mr. Izadi.

A UN staffer based in Tehran told *The Hindu* that the protests had turned violent in several pockets. "There were incidents of gunmen from among the crowd targeting security personnel." But groups based in the U.S. and Norway claimed security personnel unleashed brutal violence against protesters. The government is yet to release the official toll. But Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi said "hundreds" were killed. The UN staffer in Tehran said on January 13 that protests had subsided but "the air is very tense and fearful". "Many here say this kind of repression has never been seen. But there is no sign of weakness from the government's side. They are holding up," said the official.

According to Arash Azizi, an Iranian author who is teaching at Yale University, the Islamic Republic "might have quashed this wave of street protests but, unlike 2022, it has not returned to stability". "Its core policies and structures remain untenable. It can barely restore the social equilibrium."

He said the regime has committed a grave crime by killing "thousands" of protesters. "The opposition remains fragmented and in shock of the massacre. It would need to get its act together if it is to reach its ambitions. Barring that, it is likely that forces inside the regime will implement changes to the regime's core policies and structures as they seek a new deal with the people and also the U.S.," Mr. Azizi, author of *What Iranians Want*, told *The Hindu*.

Curse of geopolitics

Iran has long been in Washington's crosshairs. After the September 11, 2001 attacks, Iran was among the first countries to condemn al-Qaeda assault on the U.S., and even offered cooperation for America's war in Afghanistan. Yet in January 2002, then-U.S. President George W. Bush grouped Iran with North Korea and Iraq as part of an "axis of evil". A year later, the U.S. invaded Iraq.

North Korea, sensing the danger, abandoned nuclear diplomacy and accelerated efforts to build a nuclear bomb – which it tested in October 2006. Iran built a nuclear programme, but stopped short of weaponisation. Instead, Tehran invested heavily in building its so-called axis of resistance (forward defence), involving Hashad al Shabi in Iraq, Hezbollah in Lebanon and militant groups in Palestine.

When the U.S. got stuck in Iraq, Iran steadily expanded its regional influence through the axis which it thought would ensure its deterrence. When Arab Spring-inspired protests plunged Syria, an Iranian ally, into a civil war, Tehran, along with Russia and Hezbollah, stepped in. They turned around the civil war by 2018.

But the first blow came in January 2020 when the U.S. assassinated Qassem Soleimani, the charismatic head of the Quds Force. Soleimani was one of the key architects and executioners of the forward defence strategy. Soleimani's killing disrupted Iran's complex power projection in a volatile region.

After the October 7, 2023 Hamas attack, Israel took the war straight to Iran. On the one side it destroyed Gaza, and on the other, it went after Hezbollah and the Syrian government. Hezbollah was severely weakened after a month-long Israeli military operation in November 2024. In December, the Syrian government of President Bashar al-Assad collapsed when a Turkiye-backed jihadist militia, headed by Abu Mohammed al-Jolani, a former al-Qaeda commander, marched towards Damascus. With Syria fallen, Hezbollah rolled back and Hamas pushed to the ruins of Gaza, Iran suddenly lay vulnerable to external threats. And in June 2025, Israel began bombing Iran's nuclear facilities. The U.S. joined in.

Israel has never hidden its desire for regime change in Iran. During the June war, Prime Minister Netanyahu had said regime change could be one of the outcomes of the attack. On Day 1, Israel carried out a large-scale decapitation strike killing several military chiefs. The Iranian state recovered quickly and hit back with ballistic missiles, eventually forcing Israel to agree to a ceasefire. But only the direct confrontation came to a halt. The rivalry continued.

Israel, and several U.S. politicians, including Republican Lindsey Graham, openly support Reza Pahlavi as a potential successor to the Islamic Republic. From Israel's perspective, Iran is the only revisionist power in the region. No Arab country challenges Israel's military dominance. If the Islamic Republic falls and a pro-American, pro-Israel dynast is installed in Tehran, Israel, with support from Washington, could redraw the geopolitical landscape of West Asia. As the Islamic Republic's rivals seek regime change and Tehran seems determined to fight back, the protesters, who demand freedoms and reforms, risk being reduced to pawns in the broader games countries are playing.

Even though many, including German chancellor Friedrich Merz, predicted an imminent collapse of the Iranian government, that did not occur. Even at the peak of the protests, state institutions remained unified, with no visible cracks in the loyalty of the security apparatus.

The protesters, divided among separatists, liberals and monarchists, appeared to lack the political capital to bring down the republic. Questions also remain about what would follow the clerical leadership. Reza Pahlavi, who hasn't set foot in Iran for over 40 years, lacks the organisational backing or popular appeal to emerge as a credible alternative in a country of over 90 million people. "He has been living off the money his father had stolen from Iran for the last 47 years. Now, he wants to become the king. His father came to power through an American-British coup, and the son wants to come to power through an American-Israeli colour revolution, which failed," said Mr. Izadi.

But the ground reality appears more complex. "Back-to-back crises are fraying the social contract. Iranians demand structural reforms – if not regime change. The state understands this, but is unable to deliver. The push has to come from within. What you are watching on TV, the coronation of another Pahlavi, holds little significance for ordinary Iranians," said the Tehran academic. "The revolution will not be televised", he said, referring to the Gil-Scott Heron poem.

The republic may have weathered the storm for now, but tornadoes lie ahead. The economy remains in deep peril, trapped in cycles of crisis. Iran's powerful external adversaries have read recurring protests as signs of state weakness. They are likely to intensify efforts to further isolate the country, tighten the screws of sanctions, and sow internal instability. Caught between a sanctions-battered economy, a state unable to reform, and external rivals bent on forcing a violent regime change, the revolutionary road remains torn. As President Pezeshkian warned in December, nobody "can make miracles" to fix the country's myriad problems.

THE GIST

- In December, the rial's value fell by 16% — the currency lost roughly 60% of its value since the June war
- Food inflation reached an annual rate of 72%, nearly double the official target
- The Pezeshkian government tried to implement some reforms by increasing taxes and removing food and fuel subsidies, moves that only inflamed the public anger
- In December 2025, shopkeepers shut their shops and staged rallies, demanding solutions to mounting economic grievances

Lit for Life

Universality of grief: on love, loss, and healing

Andaleeb Wajid, reading from her memoir, *Learning to Make Tea for One*, at the session 'Love, Loss and Healing' with Soma Basu, took note of the death of her husband who went from someone who was the "life of the party" to just another patient, to talk about universality of grief and society's discomfort with it.

Andaleeb Wajid at a Lit for Life session. M. SRINATH

Translation and the challenge of representation

Translation is not only a representation of an author in another language, it is also re-presenting the author, with change at the heart of translation, bilingual scholar and translator Vanamala Viswanatha said at the session on "In translation: the bridge over lives and landscapes". Ms. Viswanatha, along with journalist and author Gowri Ramnarayan, and columnist, Professor and Dean, School of Liberal Arts, Bengaluru's Vidyashilp University Chandan Gowda discussed various aspects of translations and their challenges in a conversation with Mini Krishnan, Managing Editor, Tamil Nadu Textbook and Educational Services Corporation. The speakers noted that it was essential to create the ambience and feel of the original text for meaningful translations.

Chandan Gowda, Gowri Ramnarayan, and Vanamala Viswanatha, in conversation with Mini Krishnan. M. SRINATH

Tech and poetry, a perfect blend to stay relevant

Change comes from adapting to technological shifts while staying relevant and grounded, Ravi Shankar Etteth, a critically acclaimed writer and political cartoonist with over 40 years of experience in journalism said while presenting the perfect blend of technology and poetry.

Ravi Shankar Etteth spoke on experimenting with AI. R. RAGU

INBRIEF

Equitable access to mental health is key, say experts

Avira Bhatt, a youth advocate for road safety and sustainable mobility, said, "Traditionalism, manosphere, and incel culture are making a comeback. Not many people have access to a conversation that they can have openly with their parents." Ms. Bhatt spoke candidly about the need for mutual respect, kindness, and open channels of communication in a panel titled "Unquiet Minds: a generation in crisis conversations on building a better world for our children". She shared the stage with her father Amit Bhatt, and mental health experts Shelja Sen and Niharika Kaul Bhattacharya, who reiterated the need for equitable access to mental health.

Society should aim to respect human rights, says Grayling

What society should aim for, said British philosopher A.C. Grayling, is respecting human rights: aiming not for unity, not for identity and not for forced commonality, but for harmony, by allowing for, accepting and even appreciating differences. Professor Grayling, who is the principal of Northeastern University, London, and professor of philosophy there, was in conversation with Chandan Gowda, Professor and Dean, School of Liberal Arts, Vidyashilp University, Bengaluru. While discussing freedom of expression, he noted that it was absolutely fundamental to society.

Ideology disrupts the present, reconstructs future: Ashutosh

An ideology-driven regime, like the one that came to power in 2014, was not a normal phenomenon and has spelt a change of paradigm, moving away from the established norms of constitutional and democratic consensus that governments employed to govern, according to Ashutosh, journalist and author. The author of *Reclaiming Bharat: What Changed in 2024 and What Lies Ahead* said, "Ideology has an inbuilt nature that it disconnects from the past, disrupts the present, and reconstructs the future," he said. He recalled Dr. B.R. Ambedkar's warning that fascism would prevail if India did not achieve social equality.

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No area of polity should be exempt from judicial review: Justice Chandrachud

Former CJI says raising national security as a defence does not end process of judicial review; the court is duty-bound to scrutinise whether national security is truly involved; while noting that social media has created avenues for spewing hate, he cautions against state regulation of content

N. Sai Charan
CHENNAI

The former Chief Justice of India Justice D.Y. Chandrachud (retd.) said here on Saturday that there should be no area of the Constitution where any form of power was immune from judicial review.

Justice Chandrachud, who was in conversation with N. Ravi, Director, Kasturi and Sons Ltd., on the topic "Why the Constitution matters", opened with a response to a question on the prolonged incarceration of activist Umar Khalid.

He said, "The problem with many national security laws today is that they have turned the basic principles of bail on their head. Our law is governed by a fundamental presumption of innocence, which means that every undertrial is presumed to be innocent until there is a judgment of conviction."

Law and polity: Former Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud in conversation with N. Ravi, Director, Kasturi and Sons Ltd., on 'Why the Constitution matters'. R. RAGU

"Raising national security as a defence does not end the process of judicial review. There should be no area of the polity which is immune from judicial review. The court is duty-bound to carefully scrutinise whether national security is truly involved," the former CJI said.

On free speech, Justice Chandrachud said Indian society was fundamentally different from societies such as that of the United States. "What may be acceptable elsewhere may not necessarily be acceptable in India," he said.

He said social media had created avenues for spewing venom and hate. However, he cautioned against state regulation of content. "Speaking as a citizen, I would be very careful about allowing the state to decide what information should come to us. At the same time, pure self-regulation by platforms may also be insufficient," he said.

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Justice Chandrachud suggested independent regulatory institutions drawn from civil society. "Certain boundaries must be drawn for what is permissible and what is not, by institutions that people trust," he said.

'Citizens are important'

On institutions and democracy, he said while strong institutions were critical, citizens were equally important. "Citizens are the eyes and ears of how governance unfolds in practice. Their engagement with institutions sustains democracy," he said.

On the Supreme Court striking down the electoral bonds scheme, Justice Chandrachud said legalising anonymous political donations was impermissible as it would legitimise political corruption. On balancing compassion towards community dogs with concerns over public safety, he said stray dog populations reflected failures in municipal services. "We need nuanced solutions," he said.

Both Centre and State govts. should reduce deficit: Arvind Subramanian

Sindhu Hariharan
CHENNAI

India's generous, almost "Kamadhenu-like" fiscal habits are a downside of its "precocious democracy", Arvind Subramanian, former Chief Economic Adviser to the Government of India, said on Saturday.

"If you look at the government deficit in India since 1991, it is the highest amongst comparable emerging market countries at almost 10% of GDP every year," he said. "Every clamour" of every section of society is accommodated by India's precocious democracy, he said. Mr. Subramanian was speaking at a session titled "India's path to development", accompanied by Devesh Kapur, political scientist and Professor at Johns Hopkins University. The duo, who are co-authors of *A Sixth of Humanity: Independent India's Development Odyssey*, were in conversation with economist Narendar Pani.

Growth prospects: Arvind Subramanian and Devesh Kapur with Narendar Pani at a session on India's development. B. VELANKANNI RAJ

Mr. Subramanian said all this had led to a vulnerable fiscal position for India but its high growth levels were helping the country sustain fiscally. "We don't need hard austerity measures, but both the Centre and State governments should reduce deficit, especially welfare measures around cash transfer schemes," he said. As for their mantra for economic development, Mr. Kapur said the best thing was to "do no harm". Mr. Subramanian said that many of India's challenges required a strong cooperative federalism with the Centre and State working together.

'Godse's execution was unfortunate'

Recollections of history: Author Gopalkrishna Gandhi in conversation with publisher David Davidar. B. JOTHI RAMALINGAM

Udhav Naig
CHENNAI

Gopalkrishna Gandhi, former Governor of West Bengal, grandson of Mahatma Gandhi and author of *The Undying Light: A Personal History of Independent India*, on Saturday said that the post-Independence Government of India could have opened a new chapter by not handing the death penalty to the assassins of Mahatma Gandhi – Nathuram Godse and Narayan Apte.

In a conversation with novelist and publisher David Davidar, Mr. Gandhi said, "Handing of the death penalty was singularly unfortunate. The first executions in Independent India were of Godse and Apte. I have no doubt that [Mahatma] Gandhi would have been mortified. If they had not been handed the death penalty, it could have been transformational and healing. The new government could have opened a new chapter in India."

Asked about Jawaharlal Nehru and his appraisal of his legacy, Mr. Gandhi said, "He was essentially a historian, a democrat and a man of peace. He was a natural man of letters." He said that this combination made him an apt first Prime Minister of Independent India.

However, Mr. Gandhi said that some decisions of Nehru were incomprehensible. "In 1953, his arrest of Sheikh Abdullah and holding him in prison for 11 years without trial is a blot on him. His dismissal of the Namboodripad government in Kerala was also incomprehensible. He was extremely fallible but he was honest and sincere. With Abdullah, there was remorse. When did we ever see any serious politician in India say that I made a mistake," he wondered.

Mr. Gandhi had his own apologies to offer to the former Chief Minister of West Bengal Buddhadeb Bhattacharjee. "Let me say sorry. I made a statement on Nandigram [during his stint as the State's Governor] which in my view was necessary. I think that instead of a public statement, I should have told Bhattacharjee, that what happened was horrible. I didn't take the CM into confidence," he said.

Creation of the Hindi language was a political project, says Ghazala Wahab

Radhika Santhanam
CHENNAI

In a conversation with Varghese K. George, Resident Editor of *The Hindu*, New Delhi, author Ghazala Wahab spoke about her book, *The Hindi Heartland: A Study*. The book examines how the Hindi heartland has come to be viewed today – as politically important, but socially regressive.

Asked why Haryana is not part of the Hindi heartland, Ms. Wahab said, "The Hindi heartland is not just a political entity, but a geographic entity. It's not a linguistic entity. In fact, language is the least unifying identity. The Hindi heartland is essentially the Indo-Gangetic Valley."

On language: Author Ghazala Wahab with Varghese K. George, Resident Editor of *The Hindu*, New Delhi. B. JOTHI RAMALINGAM

Ms. Wahab said that the creation of the Hindi language was a political project, not an organic evolution of language. Speaking of the emergence of Hindi as a common language of the region, she said: "There are many factors that go into the evolution of language. Technology, for instance. Another is when people from different linguistic traditions interact with one another for commercial reasons or reasons of conquest. Hindi was originally conceptualised as a language of Hindus in India by the British."

For the nationalists, Hindi emerged from a desire to find unity in diversity; and to find a "national" language which could be an alternative to English and Persian, she added.

On whether the region is losing its political influence, the author said that would not happen because of the sheer number of people living in the region.

Scientific, data-driven journalism key in combating disinformation: N. Ram

India still has diversity in media ownership, but it also fares poorly in the World Press Freedom Index, says the veteran journalist; Rukmini S. weighs in on data journalism and the calibre of Indian newsrooms; Samanth Subramanian speaks on keeping reporting fair by overcoming biases

N. Sai Charan
CHENNAI

A scientific, investigative, and data-driven approach plays a crucial role in reaffirming the value of journalism and in combating disinformation, said N. Ram, veteran journalist and Director, The Hindu Group Publishing Private Ltd., during *The Hindu* Lit for Life in Chennai on Saturday.

Mr. Ram was in conversation with authors Rukmini S. and Samanth Subramanian on the topic "Skewed perception: fighting bias in journalism", moderated by Varghese K. George, Resident Editor, *The Hindu*, New Delhi.

Responding to a question on how facts and objectives are perceived and presented differently by different people, Mr. Ram said journalism must adopt a scientific method of examining facts, analysing them, and arriving at reasoned conclusions.

"It is not that facts can be looked at in any manner. In a pluralistic society, people come from different social, economic, and cultural backgrounds. But truth has an intrinsic value. Facts can be verified, challenged, and investigated," he said.

Best practices: N. Ram, Director, The Hindu Group; Rukmini S., data journalist and author; and Samanth Subramanian, author; with Varghese K. George, Resident Editor, *The Hindu*, Delhi. R. RAGU

Mr. Ram said social media today weaponised falsehood, hate, and toxicity. "It is not just social media. These also come from the so-called mainstream media," he said.

Ms. Rukmini said the same set of facts could be interpreted in multiple ways. At a time when credibility was eroding, there was a tendency to treat nothing as fully credible or true. This demanded deep introspection about how credibility is built, she said.

Speaking about the use of numbers in journalism, she said data journalism was one of the strongest areas of Indian journalism today and world-class work was being produced daily.

"But why do people still feel that there are not enough viewpoints? I think the link that needs to be made from the perspectives that are coming from data to the data itself is work that newsrooms have not done enough work on. The link between what journalists are trying to argue and the underlying data itself is missing," she said.

Beyond bias

Mr. Subramanian, while talking about bias, said all journalists were unconsciously shaped by bias. "Journalists are humans. They come with backgrounds, contexts, and prejudices. But the question every individual journalist should ask themselves is how to make one's reporting fair despite the biases," he said.

He said at the institutional level, media organisations function within social and historical contexts. On fighting bias, Mr. Ram said India still had diversity in media ownership, and digital platforms were creating spaces to challenge bias. However, he drew attention to India's poor ranking in the World Press Freedom Index published by Reporters Without Borders. "The [Narendra] Modi government is completely intolerant, and some State governments are as well. Yet there is resistance. On the whole, southern India is in a better situation, with more space for criticism and fewer attempts to suppress voices," he said.

Ms. Rukmini said numbers and data writing suffered from the same problems as other forms of journalism. "The responsibility for incomplete understanding and communication lies with producers of information. A major part of my work is to convince people that India has high-quality data, and that blanket suspicion of all data is lazy and unhelpful," she pointed out.

Mr. Ram said journalism should reclaim its role in shaping public opinion and defending human rights, fundamental rights, and democracy. He cited *The Hindu*'s Data Point column, particularly the analysis of the special intensive revision (SIR) of the electoral roll exercise, as an example of using data to fight against bias.

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INBRIEF

Manasi Chaudhari directs attention to women's rights

UN-recognised lawyer Manasi Chaudhari, in conversation with Vidya Singh, addressed a range of issues surrounding women's rights, shedding light on laws governing workplaces and marriage, and engaging with subjects often kept behind closed doors. According to data from her website, a majority of visitors seeking information on sexual harassment accessed resources related to domestic violence, "and several of these women were in marriages", she added. Highlighting the intersection of law and religion, she noted: "Your rights could be different from the woman sitting next to you, simply because of your religious differences." Describing her book, *Women, Know Your Rights*, as a legal handbook, Ms. Chaudhari highlighted key laws she believes women should remember.

Top cop reminisces decades of Mumbai's toughest cases

No policeman can succeed without getting support from people, said retired police officer Madhukar Zende. "For every police officer, compassion is the most important quality of all," he said. Known for cracking some of Mumbai's most complex cases, the 88-year-old recounted some riveting moments from his celebrated career at the 'Supercop!' session in conversation with K.C. Vijaya Kumar, Sports Editor *The Hindu*. Capturing many of the anecdotes in his memoir *Mumbai's Most Wanted,* he said the book is a truthful account on his experiences. From cracking the Shantha Devi murder in a Mumbai train with tips from convicted felons to dealing with the communal riots that broke out in Mumbai in 1993, he talked about how he never had an iota of fear while working.

Polyamory, politics and the fear of plurality in India

Writer Arundhati Ghosh has strong opinions about polyamory. "Today, we are surrounded by this language of one nation, one language, one leader, one culture. A deep suspicion of multiplicity has entered our public life. And this belief, or rather, disbelief, in the many cannot stop in the living room. It needs to enter our kitchens and our bedrooms," she says. Examining polyamory as both a personal practice and a political position in contemporary India with journalist Priya Ramani, Ms. Ghosh drew from her recently published book *All Our Loves: Journeys with Polyamory in India*, to describe the practice as "being in love, with or without sexual intimacy, with more than one person simultaneously, with the consent of all".

Mahabharata's female characters to the fore

K. Srilata with Nikhila Kesavan, Indrani Krishnaier, Geetha Lakshman, Smrithi Parameswar, and Mrithula Chetlur. M. SRINATH

Radhika Santhanam
CHENNAI

In a conversation that "turned the Mahabharata on its head by listening to the sidelined voices of women, witnesses, and footnotes", poet K. Srilata spoke to theatre director Nikhila Kesavan about her book *Footnotes to the Mahabharata*. Indrani Krishnaier, Geetha Lakshman, Smrithi Parameswar, and Mrithula Chetlur from the Madras Players presented a dramatised reading. The session focused on "the ones that Ganesha never wrote, the ones in ink invisible".

On the book, Ms. Srilata said it is not a collection of standalone poems. "This book comprises five poetic sequences based on the five most iconic women of the Mahabharata: Alli, Hidimbi, Gandhari, Draupaudi, and Kunti." The poetry draws from the various retellings of the Mahabharata, she said.

A different lens

When asked why she wrote about the women of the Mahabharata and not the men, Ms. Srilata said she grew up as the daughter of a single mother who got divorced in the 1970s. "We were outliers," she said. "I would pick up cues that we were the odd ones out. It taught me to look at life from a very different lens, from my mother's and grandmother's lens. I came into feminism from experience."

Always look for books that leave a lasting impact: Satoshi Yagisawa

S. Poorvaja
CHENNAI

Satoshi Yagisawa recalled the role books played in his life as a young person. "I was saved by books, and I also wanted to write books that would save people. This is where the journey of writing my Morisaki bookshop books began."

The Japanese author, in his first international festival appearance, took the stage at *The Hindu* Lit For Life, in conversation with Rachna Singh Davidar, festival director, to a packed audience of fans who thronged to listen to him speak about the charming world from his books, *Days at the Morisaki Bookshop* and *More Days at the Morisaki Bookshop*, both translated by Eric Ozawa.

"I was very surprised and happy to learn that my books have such a big fan following here. I was encouraged to come here and am really happy that Indians have been so welcoming towards me," Mr. Yagisawa said.

Ms. Rachna said that while Mr. Yagisawa's books were about the rich and varied lives of its characters, she also described his writing as being a wonderful study of books in our time.

The bibliophile life: Satoshi Yagisawa with Rachna Singh Davidar in a conversation on books. B. VELANKANNI RAJ

'Deeply human'

Speaking about Takako, whose uncle Satoru owns the Morisaki bookshop, Mr. Yagisawa said that while she experiences a very deep heartbreak in life which prompts her to go to the bookshop, it is here that she learns that life begins when she is able to overcome her heartbreak.

"The Morisaki bookshop might not exist in Jimbocho where the books are set, but there are many second-hand bookstores there and I want you to feel like this is one of them," he said. "There are many books I mention in my book, and it might be difficult for Indians to get hold of some of these older books written in Japanese. These are gems and if you get a chance to read the books mentioned, you will be happy because they talk about being deeply human," he added.

Responding to a question from Ms. Rachna about how books connect readers to one another, especially how second-hand books often come with passages underlined from previous readers, Mr. Yagisawa recalled feeling happy and connected when he finds similar markings in books from its past owners.

"It connects people from different times and places. You might not know what the person looks like, but you know how they felt when they read the book," he said.

Mr. Yagisawa also underscored how it should not matter how much knowledge one gathers while they read a book, and what should matter instead is "how a book deeply touches them".

"We always need to be on the lookout for books that touch us deeply and affect our lives; not just the ones that give us knowledge but the books that leave a lasting impact on us," he said.

While he initially did not plan on writing a sequel to *Days at the Morisaki Bookshop*, he said that the sequel was born after a request from his publisher.

"The writing process was pretty tedious, but once I wrote it and sent it into the world, I was glad to have written it," he said.

'Language not a barrier for collaboration on graphic adaptation of *Vaadivasal*'

B. Kolappan
CHENNAI

Tamil writer Perumal Murugan, who collaborated with illustrator and graphic novelist Appupen to adapt C.S. Chellappa's novel *Vaadivasal* into a graphic novel, said that language was not a barrier to their partnership.

"Malayalam has many old Tamil words. When Mr. Appupen speaks slowly, I understand well. We moved past the language issue easily without relying too much on words. A graphic novel is a combination of comics and text," he said, during an interaction with *The Hindu*'s Health Editor, Ramya Kannan, at *The Hindu* Lit for Life 2026, in a session titled "Enter the arena".

Vaadivasal, which means 'arena', is a novel centred on Jallikattu, the traditional Tamil sport of 'bull taming', with events organised during Pongal festivities.

Mr. Murugan, who has compiled and edited Chellappa's works, wrote the text for the graphic novel. Mr. Appupen said he jumped at the opportunity as it would give regional fiction a strong presence in the graphic medium. To gain first-hand experience of the sport, Mr. Appupen personally visited regions known for hosting the event and described the experience as "crazy".

Taming barriers: Appupen and Perumal Murugan with Ramya Kannan at the session titled 'Enter the Arena'. M. SRINATH

"Six people who participated in the taming of bulls were killed and their deaths were treated as normal. What was taken seriously was any injury to the animal," he said.

Ms. Kannan set the tone for the discussion by recalling the 2017 protests in support of Jallikattu at Marina Beach, which were described as the "Arab Spring" of Tamil Nadu. "We never thought it would continue for 15 days, though it ended in violence," she said.

On animal rights

When she drew attention to the criticism of the cruelty inflicted on animals and the loss of human lives during Jallikattu, Mr. Murugan said that when Chellappa wrote the original novel – which was first serialised in a magazine – there were no animal rights activists.

"It is a natural sport of the Tamils, and there was no interference from outside in the past. It was a sport of the pastoral society. It would take place over two to three months. Bull-tamers were trained, and the bulls were also trained throughout the year for the event. It is like training for cricket or other sports. The youth are trained to tame the bull, while the animal is trained to escape from them," he said.

Mr. Murugan agreed that power and authority in the novel were exercised on the basis of wealth rather than caste, and that the killing of the bull tamed by its owner illustrated how humans imposed authority even over animals. "The zamindar in the novel feels that his authority has been insulted and undermined by the bull that was tamed," he said.

Speaking about the experience of working on the graphic novel, Mr. Murugan said his collaborator made the task easier by allowing him to write freely, from which Mr. Appupen selected what he needed. The illustrator said he had set the stage for readers by drawing bulls at the beginning and used text and visuals to convey the story to those unfamiliar with the landscape in which it is set.

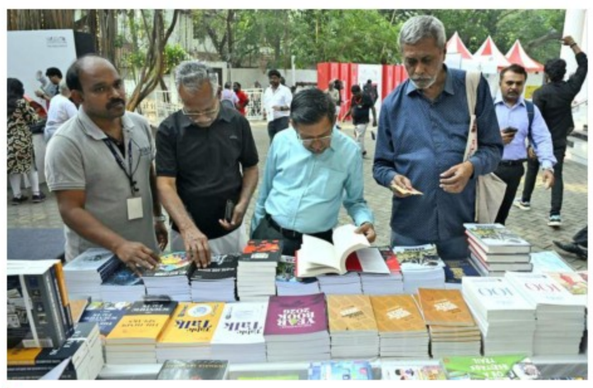
The duo are now working on a graphic novel based on Mr. Murugan's novel *Poonachi*.

"I have already completed the text," Mr. Murugan said.

Mr. Appupen said that creating graphics for a novel centred on the lives of goats would be challenging. "I will use white and black, along with orange, as there are many goat characters," he said.

Lit for Life

Avid audience: Visitors queue up to enter the venue for *The Hindu* Lit For Life and take part in the sessions. R. RAGU



At a glance: Visitors browsing special publications at The Hindu Group's book stall. UMESH KUMAR

Simple stretches: Participants at a workshop on holistic fitness and mindful living. UMESH KUMAR

Prose and pose: A visitor hits the photo booth as her friend clicks her picture. UMESH KUMAR

Finding words: Imayam and Prabha Sridevan in conversation with Kavitha Muralidharan on Saturday. R. RAGU

Translating works of Imayam was a form of catharsis: Justice Sridevan

B. Kolappan
CHENNAI

Translating the works of Imayam was an emotional experience and a form of catharsis, said Justice (retd.) Prabha Sridevan, who has translated four books by the Sahitya Akademi Award-winning writer.

"He asked me whether I would go through the same pain that he had experienced. I said yes," Justice Sridevan said in conversation with journalist Kavitha Muralidharan. She said she had to remain functionally true to the author and ensure that the reader experienced a significant degree of the pain and anguish she herself felt during the process of translation. When Ms. Muralidharan asked about the challenges faced by a translator – particularly since the English reader enters the work during the act of translation – Ms. Sridevan said, "I hear the words in Tamil when I read, and I hear them in English when I translate them into English." She reiterated that she translated the works not as Justice Prabha Sridevan, but as Ms. Prabha Sridevan.

Describing her collaboration with Mr. Imayam during the translation process as a "lovely journey", she said her chief concern was the possibility of misunderstanding elements related to tradition and custom, which are not easily translated. She pointed out that neither *Begetter* in English nor *Le Père* in French could fully capture the meaning of the Tamil word *Pethavan* (father). She added that Mr. Imayam himself was unhappy with the English title *Salt Seller* for *Uppu Vandikaran*, as it suggests a stationary shopkeeper. By contrast, a *salt vendor* conveys movement – someone who pulls a cart and travels from place to place. "Vendor alone gives mobility to the word *Uppu Vandikaran*," she said.

Responding to a question on whether her familiarity with the author and the text made her prone to overlooking details, Ms. Sridevan said she did not read the text as a reader. "I do not overlook even a comma. Every word is an adventure. If I overlook anything, I fail as a translator," she said.

Justice Sridevan also clarified that the objective of translation was not to make the work read better. "Something is always lost in translation. It is like carrying water in your hands – however careful you are, some water will spill," she said.

Ms. Muralidharan opened the session by quoting Mr. Imayam's social media post: "I understand life as I write, and as I write, life itself becomes writing."

Mr. Imayam said that once he begins writing a story, he loses himself in the process and becomes the characters he created. "But once the book goes to print, the story and the characters leave me. Then, like a beggar, I begin searching for new stories," he said.

Theatrical reading brings to life the history and culture of Tamil society

Interspersed with verses from *Kurunthogai*, *Thevaram*, *Naalayira Divya Prabandham*, and Bharati's patriotic songs, the reading traced excerpts from Nirmala Lakshman's *The Tamils: A Portrait of a Community*; it covered Pallava, Pandya, Chola, and Chera dynasties followed by others

Geetha Srimathi
CHENNAI

Whether the Tamils were the original inhabitants of India or wanderers who came from the Indus Valley is not a settled question, said Nirmala Lakshman, author of *The Tamils: A Portrait of a Community*, and Chairperson of The Hindu Group, on Saturday.

A theatrical reading from the book unfolded before a rapt audience, beginning with a resonant rendition of '*Mannum imaya malai engal malaiye*' ('The peaks of the Himalayas are ours'), a verse by poet Subramania Bharati.

Tracing history: Author Nirmala Lakshman with artists Anita Ratnam, Revathy Kumar, Sarvesh Sridhar, Tehzeeb Katari, Brahadeeshwar C. Chandilya, and Nandhini Subbulakshmi. B. VELANKANNI RAJ

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Pan-Indian sensibility

The verse expressed the strong pan-Indian sensibility that many Tamils identify with, said Ms. Lakshman. The audience remained absorbed throughout the reading by Ms. Lakshman along with artists Anita Ratnam, Revathy Kumar, Sarvesh Sridhar, Tehzeeb Katari, Brahadeeshwar C. Chandilya, and Nandhini Subbulakshmi.

The reading, interspersed with verses from *Kurunthogai* of Sangam literature, Thirunavakkarasu's *Thevaram*, the *Naalayira Divya Prabandham*, and Bharati's patriotic songs, traced excerpts from the book covering the Pallava, Pandya, Chola, and Chera dynasties, followed by the Marathas, Christendom, and the contributions of the Muslim community to Tamil culture.

The Pallava dynasty was the first large, consolidated South Indian empire and ruled for over 400 years, the artists noted. They added that the Bhakti movement, marked by a reinvigoration of Shaivism and Vaishnavism, took firm root during the reign of Mahendravarman I.

Moving on to the Pandyas, said to be the only dynasty in India with a continuous presence and rule in some form for over 2,000 years, the reading then recounted the story of Rous Peter, the British Collector of Madurai from 1812 to 1828, who, though a Christian, held deep reverence for Goddess Meenakshi.

Turning to the Cholas, the readers spoke of their architectural masterpiece, the Brihadeeswara, known locally as the Periya Koil, which was a world unto itself. They also noted that the art of painting in the cave temples at Sittanavasal, the Kailasanatha temple at Kanchipuram, and the Brihadeeswara temple at Thanjavur is considered on par with that of Ajanta.

Tamilakam enjoyed great prosperity during the early Chera rule through trade in spices, ivory, timber, pearls, and gems, they said.

When the Maratha dynasty established its rule in the ancient Chola capital of Thanjavur, a unique cultural blend emerged. Over time, many other communities became intertwined with Tamil society. Arab merchants settled in Tamilakam and married local women, giving rise to a distinct Tamil Muslim community.

T.M. Krishna highlights the need to introspect on response to symbols

Udhav Naig
CHENNAI

Renowned Carnatic singer and author T.M. Krishna on Saturday said that the idea for his latest book, *We, The People of India: Decoding a Nation's Symbols*, came about seven or eight years ago, when he began singing "the unsung verses" of the Indian national anthem, *Jana Gana Mana*, and began asking himself "What does singing an anthem mean to me?" after being deeply moved by it.

In conversation with Suhrith Parthasarathy, Mr. Krishna said, "We now sing only one verse. But I started singing the other verses, or what you would call, the unsung verses. That was the real trigger, because I was deeply moved by what those verses said, and they were not part of what we sing as an anthem. So the question, what does singing an anthem mean to me, or singing those lines mean to me, was something that should start at a very personal level."

Closer look: T.M. Krishna in conversation with Suhrith Parthasarathy at *The Hindu* Lit for Life. B. VELANKANNI RAJ

Mr. Krishna pointed out that most of our lives are spent responding to symbols. "(When) you walk on the street, see a temple and you do a namaskaram, you respond to a symbol. So our entire life, in many ways, is symbolic. Just recently, I was seeing the flag out of my hotel room in Hyderabad, and it was gorgeously fluttering, and it did something to me. Is it memory? Is it indoctrination? So, you're responding at an emotional level. The thing about symbolism is it's often an emotional activity. It's not an intellectual activity."

"Take the Sarnath (Lion capital of India): when Ashoka (The Great) had put it out there, its entire connotation, meaning and relevance was entirely different. When it is rediscovered and made into a national emblem, its meaning and connotation and relevance is entirely different," Mr. Krishna said.

Writing the forgotten histories of migrants

On diaspora: Amrita Shah, Saras Manickam and Viji Krishnamoorthy speaking with Radha Hegde. B. JOTHI RAMALINGAM

Shipra Sanjay
CHENNAI

The session, 'Diasporic narratives of relocation and belonging,' included the insights of authors Amrita Shah, Viji Krishnamoorthy, and Saras Manickam and their experiences writing migrant stories. The conversation was mediated by Radha Hegde, Professor in the department of media, culture, and communication at New York University. The conversation included discussions about the hierarchies, readerships, and forgotten histories of migrant stories.

The session consisted of three main questions that were posed to all three writers. They were asked what had compelled them to write their respective narratives, how each of the stories capture hierarchies of discrimination, and how each writer grappled with finding the audience for their story.

"I was like a detective following archives trying to answer two questions," said Amrita Shah as she discussed her recent book, *The Other Mohan in Britain's Indian Ocean Empire*. The first question she sought to answer was the mystery of why her great-grandfather, Mohanlal, moved overseas. Ms. Shah described it as a looming family mystery that she had been curious about.

Saras Manickam, author of the short story anthology *My Mother Pattu* expressed a similar vein of resistance in her writing. "We are so used to sanitising our stories," she said. Her work, she said, was intended for those interested in the stories, and she believed they would find the right audience if she remained true not to victimhood but to authenticity.

Past and present

Viji Krishnamoorthy, writer of *912 Batu Road*, described her writing process as the retracing of a story from Malaysia back to its beginnings in Puthur, Tanjore. "In order to write in the present I had to return to the past," she said. The book was intended for Malaysians interested in understanding other perspectives and uncovering a history that had been erased, she said.

Kalpana speaks on piecing together her grandmother's life

Zubeda Hamid
CHENNAI

Kalpana Karunakaran's grandmother Pankajam was, by her own definition, 'a woman of no consequence'. Not allowed to complete schooling – she had just six years of formal education before being pulled out – and confined to domestic duties within a marriage marked by little love, she nevertheless cultivated a 'kingdom of the mind', an alter universe that she built through extensive reading, friendships that defied boundaries and an ability to see the world through the eyes of others, even as she remained conscious that, consequential or not, she was still a subject of the history that was unfolding around her.

Silent stories: Kalpana Karunakaran in conversation with Sreemathi Ramnath on Saturday. M. SRINATH

Her life and her story formed the subject of discussion between Ms. Karunakaran, who teaches in the Humanities and Social Sciences Department at IIT Madras, and Sreemathi Ramnath, a polyglot consultant and writer, on Saturday. Ms. Karunakaran's book, *A Woman of No Consequence: Memory, Letters and Resistance in Madras*, was published in 2025.

How much to reveal was one issue, Ms. Karunakaran said, she grappled with. Pankajam, she said, had written her life story in bits and pieces from 1939 to 1995 in the "school essay notebooks of her children and grandchildren", but she had also turned to autofiction – fictionalised autobiographies – using three characters, Kamala, Lakshmi and Meena, to portray the unsavoury, unsayable parts of conjugal life. These raw, intense stories were perhaps a way of distancing herself, Ms. Karunakaran reflected.

'No villains'

On the subject of marriage and the ways men treated the women in their lives and the many ways of looking at this, including through the lens of gender and community, Ms. Karunakaran says that nobody is a villain in the story. The same men who wanted to crush their wives under their feet, she pointed out, also wanted their daughters to soar.

Pankajam's story plays out in the backdrop of India's freedom struggle, and though she referred to herself as a 'mere housewife', her writings, Ms. Karunakaran says, were self-reflexive; she witnessed the anti-colonial freedom movement, she witnessed changes in the city of Madras. There are many such stories out there to be written, she says – stories of 'housewives only' who were much more.

LAHORE

Pakistan's Punjab police arrest 49 'terrorists' of TTP in last 30 days

AFP

Pakistan's Punjab police on Saturday said it arrested 49 terrorists of the banned Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) during various operations conducted in the last 30 days. Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) of Punjab Police said it conducted a total of 425 intelligence-based operations in different districts of Punjab. PTI

KYIV

Ukrainian delegation lands in U.S. for talks to end four-year-old war

AFP

A Ukrainian delegation arrived in the United States for talks on Saturday on a U.S.-led diplomatic push to end the nearly 4-year-old war as Russian attacks again took aim at Ukraine's power grid. Kyrylo Budanov, Volodymyr Zelenskyy's chief of staff, said he arrived in the U.S. to discuss "the details of the peace agreement". AP

KAMPALA

Uganda's Museveni wins seventh term after violence-marred polls

REUTERS

Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni won a seventh term in office on Saturday after an election marred by violence and an Internet shutdown, with African observers saying arrests and abductions had "instilled fear". Mr. Museveni, 81, won 71.65% of the vote in Thursday's election, the Electoral Commission said. AFP

COPENHAGEN

Thousands join protest rally in Denmark against Trump push

REUTERS

Thousands of people took to the streets of Denmark's capital on Saturday to protest at U.S. President Donald Trump's push to take over Greenland. Waving the flags of Denmark and Greenland, the protesters formed a sea of red and white in Copenhagen, chanting "Kalaallit Nunaat!" — the island's name in Greenlandic. AFP

U.S. names Rubio, Blair, Kushner to Gaza board under Trump's plan

Members of the 'Board of Peace' will oversee Gaza's temporary governance, says White House; a Palestinian technocratic body will administer Gaza, overseen by the board; over 450 Palestinians have been killed by Israel during the truce period

Reuters
WASHINGTON

The White House on Friday announced some members of a so-called "Board of Peace" that is to supervise the temporary governance of Gaza, which has been under a fragile ceasefire since October.

The names include U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio, President Donald Trump's special envoy Steve Witkoff, former British Prime Minister Tony Blair and Mr. Trump's son-in-law, Jared Kushner. Mr. Trump is the chair of the board, according to a plan the White House unveiled in October.

Critics call the plan colonial in nature and question the inclusion of Tony Blair, pictured in the middle, due to his role in Iraq war. AP

Israel and Palestinian militant group Hamas signed off on Mr. Trump's plan, which says a Palestinian technocratic body will be overseen by the international board, which will supervise Gaza's governance for a transitional period.

Many rights experts and advocates have said that Mr. Trump overseeing a board to supervise a foreign territory's governance resembled a colonial structure, while Mr. Blair's involvement was criticised last year due to his role in the Iraq war and the history of British imperialism in the West Asia.

The White House did not detail the responsibilities of each member of the "founding Executive board". The names do not include any Palestinians. The White House said more members will be announced over the coming weeks.

The board will also include private equity executive and billionaire Marc Rowan, World Bank President Ajay Banga and Robert Gabriel, a Trump adviser, the White House said, adding that Nickolay Mladenov, a former UN West Asia envoy, will be the high representative for Gaza.

Army Major General Jasper Jeffers, a U.S. special operations commander, was appointed commander of the International Stabilisation Force, the White House said. A UNSC resolution authorised the board and countries working with it to establish that force in Gaza.

Israel and Hamas have accused each other of ceasefire violations in Gaza, where more than 450 Palestinians, including over 100 children, and three Israeli soldiers have been reported killed during the truce.

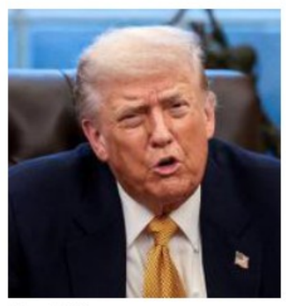
Trump announces tariffs on eight European nations

Sriram Lakshman
LONDON

In the latest of a series of moves to acquire Greenland, U.S. President Donald Trump has announced tariffs on European and NATO allies, despite having negotiated trade deals with the U.K. and the European Union in 2025. The announcement, which the President made on Truth Social, applies to Denmark, Norway, Sweden, France, Germany, The United Kingdom, The Netherlands, and Finland.

Mr. Trump said the countries would pay a 10% tariff on their exports to the U.S. starting February 1. The rate would go up to 25% from June 2026.

"This Tariff will be due and payable until such time as a Deal is reached for the Complete and Total purchase of Greenland," Mr. Trump wrote.



Donald Trump

Last week, the countries in question sent a handful of troops to Greenland at Denmark's request, in the face of escalating threats from Mr. Trump – an event Mr. Trump alluded to in his post. Greenland, a mineral-rich Arctic island, is a self-governing territory of Denmark, which is a member of the NATO alliance.

He said the countries "have journeyed to Greenland, for purposes unknown" and that it was "a very dangerous situation for the Safety, Security, and Survival of our Planet [sic]".

The countries' actions had increased the risk to a unsustainable and untenable level, Mr. Trump claimed, saying global peace and security were at stake.

Germany had noted Mr. Trump's statement and was in close consultation with its European partners, a German government spokesperson told *The Hindu* via email. The countries would together decide on their response, the spokesperson said.

In his post, Mr. Trump alleged that Russia and China wanted the Arctic island and that there was nothing Denmark could do to defend it.

Syrian forces enter northern towns after Kurdish fighters leave

Associated Press
DEIR HAFER

Syrian government forces entered two northern towns on Saturday morning after the command of Kurdish-led fighters said it would evacuate the area in an apparent move to avoid conflict.

Two soldiers were killed and others wounded in a clash as they entered the town of Maskana, state media reported. Meanwhile, troops made their way into the town of Deir Hafer. The two towns changed hands after deadly fighting erupted earlier this month between government troops and the U.S.-backed and Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) in the city of Aleppo, Syria's largest.

The Syrian military said its forces were in full control of Deir Hafer, captured the Jarrah air base to the east, and were in the process of clearing mines and explosives. It added that troops would move toward the town of Maskana.

'Excluding Awami League from upcoming poll will not bring stability to Bangladesh'

Kallol Bhattacherjee
NEW DELHI

Excluding the Awami League, which led Bangladesh's independence movement in 1971, from the upcoming election will not lead to stability in the country, said Hasan Mahmud, former Foreign Minister who served in the ousted government of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in 2024. Mr. Mahmud met the media at a press interaction here, stating that the Awami League and India have historically enjoyed good relations and that India would act if any threat to its security emanated from Dhaka, which is currently under an interim government.

"Barring the party that led the war of independence of Bangladesh and ruled the country several times will mean that the upcoming election will be nothing but an arranged one, and no stability will return to Bangladesh through such a process," said Mr. Mahmud, who also expressed doubt over whether the elections would actually be held on February 12, as promised by the Bangladesh Election Commission.

Hasan Mahmud

He said that, although the Awami League would not be allowed to contest in the upcoming election, the party has launched a global campaign to highlight what it described as serious violations of human rights and abuses against minority communities that have taken place in Bangladesh over the past 16 months.

The interim government has been accusing Sheikh Hasina and members of the Awami League of orchestrating violence in Bangladesh while staying in India. But Mr. Mahmud dismissed this criticism, saying that the relationship between the Awami League and India is deeply rooted in history.

'Chinese drone made provocative flight over South China Sea'

Reuters
TAIPEI

A Chinese reconnaissance drone briefly flew over the Taiwan-controlled Pratas Islands at the top end of the South China Sea on Saturday, in what Taiwan's Defence Ministry called a "provocative" move.

Democratically governed Taiwan, which China claims as its own territory, reports Chinese military activity around it on an almost daily basis, including drones though they very rarely enter Taiwanese airspace.

Taiwan's Defence Ministry said the Chinese reconnaissance drone was detected around dawn on Saturday approaching the Pratas Islands and flew in its airspace for eight minutes at an altitude outside the range of anti-aircraft weapons.

The Pratas are only lightly defended by Taiwan's military, but lie at a highly strategic location at the top end of the South China Sea.

Sport

Wallace, Brand power Toofans

HIL - MEN

Y.B. Sarangi
BHUBANESWAR

A change of venue augured well for Hyderabad Toofans as it rode on Zachary Wallace and Tim Brand's hat-tricks to bounce back and record a 6-0 win over defending champion Shrachi Bengal Tigers in the Hockey India League at the Kalinga Stadium on Saturday. Toofans drew first blood. A fine combined effort, involving Jacob Anderson and Talwinder Singh, fructified when Wallace tapped in from a goalmouth melee.

The composed Toofans thwarted Tigers' attacks before doubling their lead. Brand pounced on a rebound to find the target with a reverse stick from his side's first short corner.

Domination: Lancers players celebrate a strike. BISWARANJAN ROUT

Toofans pumped in two more in the second quarter. Regaining his touch, Michel Struthoff impressed in the midfield and beautifully set up Wallace, who moved in to beat three defenders and get his second. For a change, Toofans' fourth strike originated from the left. Arthur de Sloover ran across and passed it to Wallace to help the Dutchman complete his hat-trick. With his back to the post, Brand used Arshdeep Singh's cross to score a spectacular diving goal with a reverse stick. The Aussie slotted in a rebound in the final period to achieve his treble.

Vedanta Kalinga Lancers thrashed SG Pipers 6-1 to ensure a final-four spot.

The results: Hyderabad Toofans 6 (Wallace 2, 17, 30, Brand 12-pc, 39, 46) bt Shrachi Bengal Tigers 0. Vedanta Kalinga Lancers 6 (Burns 8, 23, Marais 10, Hendrickx 39-pc, 56-pc, Angad 54) bt SG Pipers 1 (Willott 9).

Saurashtra and Vidarbha in battle for supremacy

HAZARE TROPHY

N. Sudarshan
BENGALURU

Two of the most consistent sides in Indian domestic cricket in recent times, Saurashtra and Vidarbha, will meet in the 2025-26 Vijay Hazare Trophy final at BCCI Centre of Excellence near here on Sunday.

In the last decade, Saurashtra has won the Ranji Trophy twice and been a runner-up as many times. Vidarbha has won thrice, including 2024-25, and been a worthy finalist once.

Saurashtra clinched the 2022-23 Hazare title and came second in 2017-18 while Vidarbha has now reached consecutive finals and will be aiming for its maiden crown.

Though both have past history of patronising cricket, Saurashtra and Vidarbha are provinces within the States of Gujarat and Maharashtra respectively, and work with a not-so-large pool of cricketers.

Purple patch: Mokhade has been in stellar form for Vidarbha. K. MURALI KUMAR

Resources are split between the Gujarat, Saurashtra and Baroda teams, and the same is the case with Maharashtra, Vidarbha and Mumbai. In such a scenario, the way Saurashtra and Vidarbha have continuously replenished their sides, stocked them with match-winners and achieved what they have is immensely creditable.

On Sunday, this great tradition will continue, with the likes of Vishvaraj Jadeja and Chetan Sakariya (both Saurashtra), and Aman Mokhade and Darshan Nalkande (both Vidarbha) looking to repeat their semifinal exploits.

There is little to separate the two outfits, for both Saurashtra and Vidarbha come into the contest having notched up thumping wins over Punjab (nine wickets) and Karnataka (six wickets) respectively.

Mokhade is this edition's leading scorer with 781 runs while Saurashtra's Ankur Panwar is joint-highest in the list of wicket-takers with 21 scalps (average: 22.28 and econ rate: 5.78).

The latter's record is especially noteworthy, for this has been a tournament where batters have put up giant first-innings totals or chased big scores with ease. In fact, both semifinals saw the team batting second win without breaking much sweat, though dew seemingly made willow work a tad easier under lights.

Focus will also be on Vidarbha leader Harsh Dubey, who can bowl handy left-arm spin and is slowly blossoming into a capable all-rounder, and Saurashtra skipper Harvik Desai, whose 561 runs is the third-highest in this season's competition.

Both Dubey and Desai are early in their captaincy tenures. A title can skyrocket their careers.

TEAM MAN

I need to manage workload, says Siraj on his omission from T20 WC

R.V. MOORTHY

Playing in a World Cup is every cricketer's dream. I played the last one, but I need to manage the workload as well. That said, the side led by Suryakumar Yadav is strong and I wish them the best — India pacer Mohammed Siraj on his omission from the squad for the forthcoming T20 World Cup.

FULL OF PRAISE

Jadeja is an incredible fielder, he has a better throwing arm: Phillips

R.V. MOORTHY

It's hard to judge fielders because it depends on the opportunities you get on the field. Jadeja is an incredible fielder, he has a better throwing arm and knowing him (laughs) he'll be the first to say he's the best. I'm happy to go out there and let others be the judge — Glenn Phillips on comparisons with Ravindra Jadeja as a fielder.

PLANNING AHEAD

'We'll go out there and try to score plenty, if not, adapt accordingly'

R.V. MOORTHY

Dew could definitely play a part. Being able to change the ball only after 34 overs shifts the dynamics. But the pitch looks fantastic and it is also a high-scoring ground. We'll go out there, and try to score plenty. If not, we'll adapt accordingly — Glenn Phillips on the surface and the impact of dew.

NEED TO BE CAREFUL

Missed chances proved to be costly: Siraj before the decider

R.V. MOORTHY

Mohammed Siraj said the team remains positive as India gears up for the ODI decider against New Zealand. "The environment is good. It feels really positive," Siraj said. The pacer also acknowledged lapses in the field hurt the team. "There were a few chances. Had they been taken, the result could have been different," added Siraj.

Smriti, Voll make it four out of four for Royal Challengers

Bell, Sayali scalp three each as the Bengaluru team bowls out DC for 166 despite Shafali's knock

WPL-4

Shayan Acharya
NAVI MUMBAI

By the time the spectators could settle in at the D.Y. Patil Stadium on Saturday evening, Delhi Capitals was four wickets down with just 10 runs on the board. An eerie silence descended on the dugout, with the team struggling to come to terms with the early setback.

But Shafali Verma wasn't the one to press the panic button. She counter-attacked with a 41-ball 62 (5x4, 4x6) as Capitals recovered and put up 166.

But in the end, her efforts went in vain as Royal Challengers Bengaluru rode on captain Smriti Mandhana's 61-ball 96 (13x4, 3x6) to pull off an eight-wicket win and end the first phase of the Women's Premier League unbeaten.

RCB chased down Capitals' 166 without breaking a sweat. Despite losing Grace Harris early on, Smriti forged a 142-run partnership off 91 balls for the second wicket with Georgia Voll (54 n.o., 42b, 5x4, 2x6). Throughout her innings, Smriti seemed to be in no hurry as she played the ball on the merit, before missing out on a first-ever century in the tournament by just four runs. But Voll and Richa Ghosh took RCB home with 10 balls to spare.

The Bengaluru outfit notched up its fourth successive win while the bottom-placed Delhi side suffered its third loss in four games.

Before Smriti stole the show, Shafali entertained the crowd. Lauren Bell and Sayali Satghare made the new ball count and triggered Capitals' collapse in the first couple of overs. But Shafali produced a blistering riposte, with a flurry of fours and sixes.

Shafali knew that it was important to forge partnerships and she did stitch a few – a 59-run stand with Niki Prasad for the fifth wicket was followed by a couple of smaller ones with Sneh Rana and Lucy Hamilton for the seventh and eighth wickets.

With India's head coach Amol Muzumdar in attendance, Shafali not only brought smiles to the Capitals camp, but also proved her mettle by coming up with one of her grittiest innings.

Shafali and Hamilton, making her debut in the competition, ensured that Capitals reached a respectable total.

After Bell brought an end to Shafali's innings, Hamilton hammered Shreyanka Patil for a couple of sixes and a four.

Top knock: Smriti's dazzling 96 took RCB home. EMMANUAL YOGINI

SCOREBOARD

DELHI CAPITALS
Shafali Verma c Prema b Bell 62 *(41b, 5x4, 4x6)*, Lizelle Lee b Bell 4 *(2b, 1x4)*, Laura Wolvaardt b Bell 0 *(2b)*, Jemimah Rodrigues b Sayali 4 *(3b, 1x4)*, Marizanne Kapp b Sayali 0 *(1b)*, Niki Prasad lbw b Prema 12 *(14b, 2x4)*, Minnu Mani c Smriti b de klerk 5 *(4b, 1x4)*, Sneh Rana b Prema 22 *(22b, 3x4)*, Lucy Hamilton c Radha b Sayali 36 *(19b, 3x4, 3x6)*, Shree Charani (not out) 11 *(11b, 1x4)*, Nandani Sharma run out 1 *(1b)*; Extras (lb-1, w-8): 9; Total (in 20 overs): 166.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-5 (Lee, 0.3 overs), 2-5 (Wolvaardt, 0.5), 3-10 (Jemimah, 1.2), 4-10 (Kapp, 1.3), 5-69 (Niki, 7.2), 6-74 (Minnu, 8.1), 7-108 (Sneh, 13.3), 8-130 (Shafali, 16.1), 9-164 (Hamilton, 19.4).

RCB BOWLING
Bell 4-0-26-3, Sayali 3-0-27-3, Shreyanka 3-0-44-0, de Klerk 4-0-31-1, Prema 3-0-16-2, Radha 3-0-21-0.

ROYAL CHALLENGERS
Grace Harris c Shafali b Kapp 1 *(4b)*, Smriti Mandhana c Hamilton b Nandani 96 *(61b, 13x4, 3x6)*, Georgia Voll (not out) 54 *(42b, 5x4, 2x6)*, Richa Ghosh (not out) 7 *(4b, 1x4)*; Extras (b-4, nb-1, w-6): 11; Total (for two wkts. in 18.2 overs): 169.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-14 (Harris, 2.1), 2-156 (Smriti, 17.2).

CAPITALS BOWLING
Kapp 4-0-21-1, Hamilton 3.2-0-37-0, Nandani 4-0-34-1, Shree Charani 3-0-26-0, Sneh 1-0-13-0, Shafali 1-0-14-0, Minnu 2-0-20-0.

Toss: RCB; **PoM:** Smriti.
RCB won by eight wickets with 10 balls to spare.

Another run-fest on the cards in series decider

NZ IN INDIA

Tarun Shastry
INDORE

The last time India played an ODI at the Holkar Stadium in September 2023, the batters stole the show. Shubman Gill's 104 and Shreyas Iyer's 105 propelled the home side to 399 for five as Australia was demolished by 99 runs (via DLS method), underlining the venue's reputation as a batting paradise.

Come Sunday, India will hope for a similar script. Gill, now captain, and Shreyas, returning after a serious injury, will be central to the hosts' plans in the decider against a confident New Zealand.

The series has been a tight one. In the opener at Vadodara, Virat Kohli's well-crafted 93 ensured India crossed the line. However, the contest exposed the frailties in the Men in Blue's bowling department as the Black Caps posted 300 for eight. Seasoned spinners Ravindra Jadeja and Kuldeep Yadav have failed to find their rhythm. Given the tweakers' inability to strike, left-arm pacer Arshdeep Singh could be included for the crucial encounter.

In the Rajkot game, the Kiwi bowlers maintained impeccable lines and lengths after the visitors opted to field first. Medium-pacer Kristian Clarke ran through the top-order, dismissing Rohit Sharma, Kohli and Shreyas before skipper Michael Bracewell and left-arm spinner Jayden Lennox applied pressure in the middle overs. Bracewell and Lennox's combined spell (20-1-76-2) strangled India and K.L. Rahul's unbeaten 112 was the silver lining as Gill's men finished with 284 for seven.

With the conditions easing under lights, Will Young's fluent 87 and Daryl Mitchell's sensational unbeaten knock of 131 powered the Kiwis home with seven wickets and 15 balls to spare.

The manner in which the Black Caps have made runs will boost their confidence heading into the decider as they seek their first ODI series win on Indian soil. On the other hand, if the hosts get their act together, another home series win is possible. With the Indore surface promising a run-fest, a thrilling finale is on the cards.

Key men: Kohli will look to bounce back after a rare failure in Rajkot while Kuldeep will be keen to make amends. R.V. MOORTHY

The teams (from):
India: Shubman Gill (Capt.), Shreyas Iyer (Vice-capt.), Rohit Sharma, Virat Kohli, K.L. Rahul (wk), Ravindra Jadeja, Mohammed Siraj, Harshit Rana, Prasidh Krishna, Kuldeep Yadav, Dhruv Jurel (wk), Nitish Kumar, Arshdeep Singh, Yashasvi Jaiswal, and Ayush Badoni.
New Zealand: Michael Bracewell (Capt.), Adithya Ashok, Kristian Clarke, Josh Clarkson, Devon Conway, Zak Foulkes, Mitch Hay (wk), Kyle Jamieson, Nick Kelly, Jayden Lennox, Daryl Mitchell, Henry Nicholls, Glenn Phillips, Michael Rae, and Will Young.
Match starts at 1.30 p.m.

Harmanpreet.
FILE PHOTO: EMMANUAL YOGINI

Harmanpreet to lead India

Sports Bureau

Harmanpreet Kaur will lead India in the white-ball series against Australia, it was announced on Saturday. India will also play a Test during the series, and the squad will be picked later.

The squads: T20Is:
Harmanpreet Kaur (Capt.), Smriti Mandhana (Vice-capt.), Shafali Verma, Renuka Singh, Shree Charani, Vaishnavi Sharma, Kranti Gaud, Sneh Rana, Deepti Sharma, Richa Ghosh (wk), G. Kamalini (wk), Arundhati Reddy, Amanjot Kaur, Jemimah Rodrigues, Bharti Fulmali, and Shreyanka Patil.
The schedule: Feb. 15 (Sydney), Feb. 19 (Canberra) and Feb. 21 (Adelaide).
ODIs: Harmanpreet Kaur (Capt.), Smriti Mandhana (Vice-capt.), Shafali Verma, Renuka Singh, Shree Charani, Vaishnavi Sharma, Kranti Gaud, Sneh Rana, Deepti Sharma, Richa Ghosh (wk), G. Kamalini (wk), Kashvee Gautam, Amanjot Kaur, Jemimah Rodrigues, and Harleen Deol.
The schedule: Feb. 24 (Brisbane), Feb. 27 and March 1 (both Hobart).

Lanning, Litchfield star for Warriorz

Shayan Acharya
NAVI MUMBAI

Amelia Kerr and Amanjot Kaur put up a brave fight and forged an 83-run partnership for the sixth wicket. But in the end, their efforts proved futile as Mumbai Indians went down to UP Warriorz by 22 runs, for the second time in three days, in a Women's Premier League fixture.

Meg Lanning led from the front with a 45-ball 70 and Phoebe Litchfield struck 61 off 37 balls to guide Warriorz to 187 for eight at the D.Y. Patil Stadium on Saturday. Mumbai Indians lost the first five wickets for just 69 runs.

While the defending champion was staring at a big defeat as none of the top-order batters could rise to the occasion, Kerr (49 n.o., 28b, 6x4, 1x6) and Amanjot (41, 24b, 4x4, 3x6) brought the game to life.

However, Shikha Pandey broke the partnership with a sharp return catch to send back Amanjot.

Mumbai changed its opening pair again and went ahead with Hayley Matthews and Sajeevan Sajana. But the move did not pay off as the partnership did not last three overs.

Warriorz dominated in every department. Despite losing opener Kiran Navgire for a duck, Warriorz rode on Lanning and Litchfield's 119-run partnership off just 74 balls to seize control of the innings. As Mumbai dropped quite a few catches, the two went on to score fifties.

Amanjot broke the stand by removing Litchfield. Matthews struck to dismiss Lanning. However, Harleen Deol and Chloe Tyron provided the finishing touches and guided them to a total, which proved enough.

Guiding force: Lanning led from the front with a 45-ball 70. EMMANUAL YOGINI

SCOREBOARD

UP WARRIORZ
Meg Lanning c Amanjot b Matthews 70 *(45b, 11x4, 2x6)*, Kiran Navgire b Carey 0 *(1b)*, Phoebe Litchfield c Sanskriti b Amanjot 61 *(37b, 7x4, 3x6)*, Harleen Deol st. Kamalini b Kerr 25 *(16b, 2x4, 1x6)*, Chloe Tyron c Harmanpreet b Sciver-Brunt 21 *(13b, 1x4, 1x6)*, Shweta Sehrawat c Kamalini b Sciver-Brunt 0 *(1b)*, Sophie Ecclestone st. Kamalini b Kerr 1 *(4b)*, Deepti Sharma c Kamalini b Kerr 0 *(2b)*, Asha Sobhana (not out) 1 *(1b)*; Extras (b-4, lb-1, w-3): 8; Total (for eight wkts. in 20 overs): 187.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-5 (Kiran, 0.4 overs), 2-124 (Litchfield, 12.6), 3-136 (Lanning, 13.5), 4-177 (Tyron, 18.1), 5-177 (Shweta, 18.2), 6-185 (Harleen, 19.1), 7-186 (Ecclestone, 19.4), 8-187 (Deepti, 19.6).

MUMBAI INDIANS BOWLING
Carey 4-0-38-1, Sanskriti 2-0-16-0, Sciver-Brunt 4-0-22-2, Matthews 3-0-40-1, Amanjot 3-0-38-1, Kerr 4-0-28-3.

MUMBAI INDIANS
Hayley Matthews c & b Ecclestone 13 *(13b, 3x4)*, Sajeevan Sajana lbw b Kranti 10 *(6b, 1x4, 1x6)*, Nat Sciver-Brunt c Lanning b Shikha 15 *(12b, 3x4)*, Harmanpreet Kaur c Ecclestone b Tyron 18 *(21b, 2x4, 1x6)*, Nicola Carey c Harleen b Deepti 6 *(10b)*, Amelia Kerr (not out) 49 *(28b, 6x4, 1x6)*, Amanjot Kaur c & b Shikha 41 *(24b, 4x4, 3x6)*, G. Kamalini (not out) 9 *(6b, 1x6)*; Extras (w-4): 4; Total (for six wkts. in 20 overs): 165.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-23 (Sajana, 2.5), 2-23 (Matthews, 3.2), 3-44 (Sciver-Brunt, 6.5), 4-57 (Carey, 9.3), 5-69 (Harmanpreet, 10.6), 6-152 (Amanjot, 18.3).

WARRIORZ BOWLING
Kranti 4-0-32-1, Shikha 4-0-30-2, Ecclestone 4-1-33-1, Deepti 4-0-35-1, Tyron 2-0-18-1, Asha 2-0-17-0.

Toss: MI; **PoM:** Lanning.
Warriorz won by 22 runs.

Casting a spell: Vihaan emerged India's hero. ICC

Vihaan spins it India's way after Suryavanshi and Kundu's efforts

U-19 WORLD CUP

Press Trust of India
BULAWAYO

Vaibhav Suryavanshi and Abhigyan Kundu struck half-centuries before off-spinner Vihaan Malhotra derailed Bangladesh's chase in a rain-affected Under-19 World Cup match on Saturday.

After pacer Al Fahad's splendid five-wicket haul saw India getting bowled out for 238, Bangladesh was in with a chance when it reached 106 for three in the 22nd over.

However, Vihaan spun it India's way with an incisive spell of 4-0-14-4. He was named the Player-of-the-Match.

Earlier, India was kept under constant pressure by some disciplined bowling as the usually explosive opener Suryavanshi was forced to play a restrained innings (72, 67b, 6x4, 3x6).

Kundu scored a composed 80 (112b, 4x4, 3x6), making full use of two reprieves and steering India past the 200-run mark.

A 65-minute rain interruption had reduced the match to 49 overs.

The scores: India u-19 238 in 48.4 overs (Vaibhav Suryavanshi 72, Abhigyan Kundu 80, Al Fahad 5/38) bt Bangladesh u-19 146 in 28.3 overs (Rifat Beg 37, Azizul Hakim 51, Vihaan Malhotra 4/14) by 18 runs in DLS Method.
Revised Target: 165 in 29 overs;
Toss: Bangladesh.
PoM: Vihaan.

United dominates City, Liverpool held

Agence France-Presse
MANCHESTER

Michael Carrick's Manchester United beat Manchester City 2-0 on Saturday, dealing a huge blow to its neighbours' title hopes, as sorry Tottenham slipped to defeat against relegation-threatened West Ham.

Liverpool was held to a 1-1 draw by lowly Burnley while Liam Rosenior celebrated his first league win in charge of Chelsea as it beat Brentford.

The results: Premier League: Manchester United 2 (Mbeumo 65, Dorgu 76) bt Manchester City 0; Chelsea 2 (Pedro 26, Palmer 76-pen) bt Brentford 0; Leeds 1 (Nmecha 90+1) bt Fulham 0; Liverpool 1 (Wirtz 42) drew with Burnley 1 (Edwards 65); Sunderland 2 (Le Fee 33, Brobbey 71) bt Crystal Palace 1 (Pino 30); Tottenham 1 (Romero 64) lost to West Ham 2 (Summerville 15, Wilson 90+3).

LaLiga: Real Madrid 2 (Mbappe 58-pen, Asencio 65) bt Levante 0.

Serie A: Udinese 0 lost to Inter Milan 1 (Martinez 20).

Bundesliga: Dortmund 3 (Brandt 45+1, Adeyemi 54, Can 90+5-pen) bt St. Pauli 2 (Sands 62, Jones 72); Wolfsburg 1 (Jenz 80) drew with Heidenheim 1 (Beck 45+1); Hoffenheim 1 (Burger 9) bt Bayer Leverkusen 0; Cologne 2 (Ache 57, 85) bt Mainz 1 (Bell 29); Hamburg 0 drew with Borussia M'Gladbach 0.

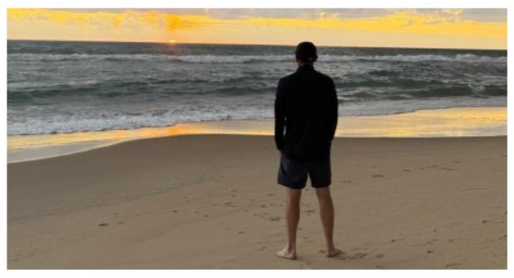
On Friday: LaLiga: Espanyol 0 lost to Girona 2 (Vanat 45+3, 90+3).

Serie A: Pisa 1 (Durosinmi 87) drew with Atalanta 1 (Krstovic 83).

Bundesliga: Werder Bremen 3 (Njinmah 29, Stage 78, Milosevic 80) drew with Eintracht Frankfurt 3 (Kalimuendo 1, Collins 56, Knauff 90+4).

Attacking verve: Dorgu, centre, slips in between the City defence to poke home United's second. AP

INBRIEF



Damien Martyn returns home from hospital

Former Australia batter Damien Martyn on Saturday returned home from hospital after recovering from an "awful" meningitis attack, which he said made him realise "how fragile life is." Martyn was taken ill on December 27, 2025 and had to be put in an induced coma in the intensive care unit, but showed signs of recovery in the first week of January. But now the ordeal is behind him.

Chotrani loses to Cardenas in Squash in Land quarters

Veer Chotrani lost 11-3, 11-7, 11-8 to Mexican second seed Leonel Cardenas in the quarterfinals of the Squash in the Land 2026 in Cleveland, USA.

Manisha Kalyan joins Peruvian club Alianza Lima

Indian women's team midfielder Manisha Kalyan has been signed up by Peruvian club Alianza Lima. This is her third overseas club after having previously played for PAOK FC (Greece) and Apollon Ladies FC (Peru). The 24-year-old has also played for Sethu FC and Gokulam Kerala at home.

Andreeva eases past Mboko in Adelaide International final

Mirra Andreeva will head to the Australian Open on a high after defeating Victoria Mboko 6-3, 6-1 to clinch the Adelaide International on Saturday in a battle of talented teenagers. The World No. 8 from Russia suffered an early break against the Canadian but then took the final by the throat. Andreeva won a fourth title in her young and brilliant career.

ROUND-UP

Tomar stars for President's XI

BENGALURU: Ryan Tomar (170) starred for President's XI against Shivamogga Zone in the KSCA under-14 inter-zonal tournament here.

The scores: President's XI 356/8 in 90 overs (Prabhav Pydah 83, Ryan Tomar 170) and 22 for no loss in 13.4 overs drew with Shivamogga Zone 204 in 81 overs (N. Mayur 43, M. Neeraj 4/23).

Bangalore City XI 346/7 in 90 overs (Ahaan Dash 46, Zaki Ahmad 146 n.o.) drew with Tumkur Zone 107 in 53.3 overs and 147/6 in 41 overs (Pranav Murthy 49, Mohammed Yaseen 41).

Vice President's XI 284 in 87.1 overs (Vyom Naidu 42, Gaurav Jeevan 53, Samrat Aditya 55) and 188/4 in 34 overs (Athreya Bhat 74, Ronav Budala 52, Vyom Naidu 45) drew with Dharwad Zone 140 in 60.5 overs (Daivik Mugabast 59 n.o.).

Bangalore Zone 348/8 in 90 overs (Saurjyesh Das 57, Joe Francis 68 n.o.) drew with Secretary's XI 333/7 in 90 overs (Tej Raju 110, Hrithik Polin 89, P.J. Vishist 41 n.o.).

Raichur Zone 292/9 in 90 overs (Pavandeep Bharadakane 156, Rathod Sairam 45) and 54/3 in 17 overs drew with Combined City XI 286 in 81 overs (Suresh Araganji 108, Hrithvik Shetty 35, M. Sriganesh 78 n.o.).

Mysore Zone 224 in 77.5 overs (Sachin Raj 111, Rao Jadhav 4/42) and 207/5 in 56 overs (Nikhil Chethan 54, C.K. Likith 41 n.o.) drew with Mangalore Zone 90 in 43.5 overs.

Big win for Mysore DFA

TUMAKURU: Mysore DFA whipped Davangere DFA 8-0 in the KSFA senior Olympic football State games.

The results: Mysore bt Davangere 8-0; Kodagu bt Hassan 2-0; Uttara Kannada bt Mandya 4-2; Belgaum bt Davanagere 3-0; Mysore bt Shivamogga 3-0.

LIVE TELECAST

Badminton: India Open, Eurosport, 10 a.m.
Men's U-19 World Cup: SS Select 2 & JioHotstar, 1 p.m.
Vijay Hazare Trophy: JioHotstar, 1.30 p.m.
India vs New Zealand: 3rd ODI, Star Sports 2 & JioHotstar, 1.30 p.m.
HIL: Sony Sports Ten 1 & LIV, 5 & 7.30 p.m.
Serie A: DAZN, 5, 7.30, 10.30 p.m. & 1.15 a.m. (Monday)
LaLiga: FanCode, 6.30, 8.45, 11 p.m. & 1.30 a.m. (Monday)
Premier League: SS Select 1 & JioHotstar, 7.30 & 10 p.m.
Bundesliga: Sony Sports Ten 2 & LIV, 8 & 10 p.m.
Australian Open: Sony Sports Ten 1, 2, 3, 5 & LIV, 5.30 a.m. (Monday)

Alcaraz begins quest for a career Slam

The top seed plays home nation's Walton on Sunday; Sinner, who opens his title defence against Frenchman Gaston, could meet Djokovic in the semifinals; Sabalenka faces wildcard Rajaonah in the first round while defending champion Keys takes on debutant Oliynykova of Ukraine

AUSTRALIAN OPEN

Agence France-Presse
MELBOURNE

Carlos Alcaraz launches his bid for a career Grand Slam on Sunday "hungry" for an elusive Australian Open title while Aryna Sabalenka is laser-focused on clinching a third Melbourne crown.

The first Major of the year gets underway as a 15-day event for the third time running, aimed at cutting down on late-night finishes.

Desperate

Top seed Alcaraz is desperate to win it, having failed to go past the quarterfinals in four previous trips to Australia.

The title is the only one missing from his Major collection, which currently consists of two French Opens, two US Opens and two Wimbledons.

"This is my main goal for this year," Alcaraz, who gets under way in the night match on Rod Laver Arena against home player Adam Walton, said.

"I'm just hungry for the title, hungry to do a really good result here."

He has met the 79th-ranked Walton once before, at Queen's in London last year, when he won 6-4, 7-6(4).

Should the 22-year-old complete the career Slam he would join an exclusive club as just the sixth man to win all four Major titles after Rod Laver, Andre Agassi, Roger Federer, Rafael Nadal and Novak Djokovic in the Open Era.

He would also become the youngest, surpassing Nadal, who was 24 at the time.

But he has a big roadblock in front of him, with Italy's Jannik Sinner the two-time defending champion and in peak physical condition.

Sinner, who beat Alexander Zverev in last year's final and went on to win Wimbledon, opens against France's Hugo Gaston, who he has met twice before but not since 2021.

"We worked a lot physically," Sinner said of his pre-season.

Sinner could meet 10-time champion Djokovic in the semifinals before a potential clash with Alcaraz for the title.

Djokovic would surpass Margaret Court as the outright Slam leader on 25 titles should he turn back the clock and upstage his younger rivals. He has a tricky opener against Spain's Pedro Martinez.

Zverev, in the same half of the draw as Alcaraz, is also in action Sunday against Canadian Gabriel Diallo.

Top-ranked Sabalenka kicks off against French wildcard Tiantsoa Rakotomanga Rajaonah, preceding Alcaraz onto Rod Laver Arena. Defending champion Madison Keys meets debutant Oleksandra Oliynykova of Ukraine in the opener.

Berrettini withdraws

Former Wimbledon runner-up Matteo Berrettini withdrew from the tournament on Saturday, citing an oblique injury. The Italian, ranked 56th, had been due to face sixth-seeded Alex de Minaur in the first round. Berrettini had to retire from an exhibition match on Friday night but reportedly cited an illness that time.

Mackenzie McDonald replaces Berrettini as a lucky loser.

Game, set, metrics
Milestones beckon as the season-opening Major gets underway Down Under:
1 Alcaraz enters the Melbourne Major as the top seed for the first time
1 If Djokovic triumphs, he will become the oldest champion Down Under, breaking Rosewall's record (37y 1m 24d)
1 Venus (45y 7m) and Tatjana (38y 5m 9d), with a combined age of 84 years and one day, will be the oldest to compete in a main draw match since the WTA was founded in 1973
2 Sinner looks to become the second man, after Djokovic, to do a three-peat at the Australian Open
6 If Alcaraz lifts the trophy in Melbourne, he will become just the sixth man (Laver, Agassi, Federer, Nadal, Djokovic) to win all four Majors at least once in the Open Era
9 The prize money (aus$111.5 million) has entered nine figures for the first time in the tournament's history
10 For only the second time in 25 years, 10 Australian women will compete in the first round
81 Djokovic is all set to equal Federer's record of most Grand Slam appearances
100 The Serb is one victory away from becoming the first man to win 100 or more matches at three Majors, and on all three surfaces
At 40 years and 290 days, Wawrinka will be the oldest wildcard entrant (men) at the Australian Open
1 Alcaraz could become the youngest man (22y 272d) to win a career Grand Slam
Compiled by ANIRUDH VELAMURI
Sunday's Picks
WOMEN
1-Sabalenka vs Rajaonah
7-Paolini vs Sasnovich
11-Alexandrova vs Sonmez
12-Svitolina vs Bucsa
20-Kostyuk vs Jacquemot
MEN
1-Alcaraz vs Walton
3-Zverev vs Diallo
10-Bublik vs Brooksby
18-Cerundolo vs Zhang
26-Norrie vs Bonzi

Federer hogs the limelight at opening ceremony

Associated Press
MELBOURNE

The Australian Open's first formal opening ceremony became the Roger Federer show on the eve of the season-opening major.

There was Crowded House, the band, playing a set of four hits. There was a full house – a capacity crowd in the 15,000-seat stadium.

Australian great Rod Laver was in the house. The 87-year-old Aussie was sitting courtside in the Rod Laver Arena, the centre court at Melbourne Park named in his honour.

Federer, the six-time Australian Open winner and 20-time Grand Slam champion, partnered past champions Andre Agassi and then Ash Barty in an exhibition doubles match against Pat Rafter and Lleyton Hewitt as the main feature of the programme.

The charmers: Federer and Agassi hit it off well in the exhibition match. AP

It went to script, with Federer winning the first point despite framing a forehand and then emphatically finishing off the victory with a leaping overhead winner.

Novak Djokovic, who has won 10 Australian titles among his record 24 major championships, was there to watch. The Australian Open main draw singles competitions start Sunday. Djokovic plays his opening match on Monday.

Australian Open organisers turned the 2026 edition into a three-week festival of tennis, with 217,999 fans attending across six days to watch exhibitions, qualifying and the 1 Point Slam before the main draw started. Federer was back in Australia for the first time since 2021, making the trip now because he retired from competitive tennis before he could do a farewell season tour.

"It really truly means so much to me when people like Rocket (Laver) show up," Federer said. "It's super important to be grateful" to earlier generations of stars.

Warriors begin PWL campaign with a win

Sports Bureau
NOIDA

Delhi Dangal Warriors registered a comfortable 6-3 win over Maharashtra Kesari in its first match of the 2026 Pro Wrestling League at the Noida Indoor Stadium here on Friday. Saarika, 17, pulled off the biggest upset of the day as she defeated Paris Olympics silver medallist Yusneylis Guzman Lopez 7-0 in the 53kg category.

The results: Men: 57kg: Shubham Kaushik (Delhi Dangal Warriors) bt Atish Thodkar (Maharashtra Kesari) 12-10; **125kg:** Robert Baran (Maharashtra Kesari) bt Ronak (Delhi Dangal Warriors) 5-0; **74kg:** Turan Bayramov (Delhi Dangal Warriors) bt Yash (Maharashtra Kesari) 14-10.

86kg: Vafaeipour Hadi Bakhtiar (Delhi Dangal Warriors) bt Amit (Maharashtra Kesari) 5-3; **65kg:** Sujeet Kalkal (Delhi Dangal Warriors) bt Tevanyan Vazgen (Maharashtra Kesari) 6-2.

Women: 57kg: Manisha Bhanvala (Maharashtra Kesari) bt Karla Godinez Gonzalez (Delhi Dangal Warriors) 6-0; **53kg:** Saarika (Delhi Dangal Warriors) bt Yusneylis Guzman Lopez (Maharashtra Kesari) 7-0; **62kg:** Bilyana Zhivkova Dudova (Maharashtra Kesari) bt Anjli (Delhi Dangal Warriors) 10-2; **76kg:** Anastasiya Alpyeeva (Delhi Dangal Warriors) bt Harshita Mor (Maharashtra Kesari) by fall (6-2).

Reigning champion An serves a masterclass

INDIA OPEN SUPER 750

Uthra Ganesan
NEW DELHI

An Se-young extended her winning streak against Ratchanok Intanon to 13 matches, going all the way back to 2019, with a dominant display of control and power for a 21-11, 21-7 victory in the semifinals of the India Open Super 750 on Saturday.

The South Korean will meet China's Zhi Yi Wang in the summit clash. Zhi Yi beat Chen Yu Fei, for only the second win in 16 meetings, 21-15, 23-21 in the other semifinal.

While on paper the final will be a battle of the top two players in the world, An will be the outright favourite to defend her title.

Racing to a 6-0 lead in the opening game inside two minutes before Ratchanok could find her feet, An took a firm grip by making her opponent work hard for every point and always at least three points in the lead.

The Thai shuttler started better in the second game, sharing the first eight points equally, but once An got a hang of the drift and adapted her speed and angles accordingly, there was no comeback.

Too good: An will be the outright favourite to defend her title. SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

Meanwhile, Yuki Fukushima and Mayu Matsumoto upset the World No. 2 Malaysian pair of World Championships silver medalists Pearly Tan and Thinaah Muralitharan 21-16, 21-13. Sheng Shu Liu and Ning Tan beat Korea's Ha Na Baek and So Hee Lee 21-12, 17-21, 21-14 in a match once again delayed by overhead droppings.

Surviving a scare: Christie prevailed over Yew. SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

Among the men, Jonatan Christie survived a scare before prevailing 21-18, 22-20 against Loh Kean Yew. World No. 4 Christie clawed back from a six-point deficit at 11-5 to take the lead for the first time in the opening game at 17-16 before closing it out. He managed to slow down his strokes to avoid going wide and long and controlled the net for most of his points in the second to seal the win.

The results (semifinals): Men: Jonatan Christie (Ina) bt Loh Kean Yew (Sgp) 21-18, 22-20; Chun-Yi Lin (Tpe) bt Victor Lai (Can) 21-9, 6-21, 22-20.

Doubles: Hiroki Midorikawa & Kyohei Yamashita (Jpn) bt Aaron Chia & Wooi Yik Soh (Mas) 21-10, 13-21, 21-11.

Women: An Se-young (Kor) bt Ratchanok Intanon (Tha) 21-11, 21-7; Zhi Yi Wang (Chn) bt Chen Yu Fei (Chn) 21-15, 23-21.

Doubles: Yuki Fukushima & Mayu Matsumoto (Jpn) bt Pearly Tan & Thinaah Muralitharan (Mas) 21-16, 21-13; Sheng Shu Liu & Ning Tan (Chn) bt Ha Na Baek & So Hee Lee (Kor) 21-12, 17-21, 21-14.

Mixed: Dechapol Puavaranukroh & Supissara Paewsampran (Tha) bt Yan Zhe Feng & Dong Ping Hong (Chn) 16-21, 21-19, 21-16; Mathias Christiansen & Alexandra Boke (Den) bt Zheng Bang Jiang & Ya Xin Wei (Chn) 16-21, 21-14, 21-14.

Vijender appointed to Asian Boxing Council

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Indian boxer Vijender Singh has been appointed as a member of the Asian Boxing Council.

Vijender said, "I am honoured to be appointed as a member of the Asian Boxing Council. I would like to thank the Boxing Federation of India and its leadership for entrusting me with this responsibility."

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